

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

December, 1969

New Series, Price 6d.

Art auction

A new venture in fund-raising for spastics came to a climax when an Art Auction was held at the Knight, Frank and Rutley Galleries, Hanover Square, London. The paintings and objets d'arts in the Sale had all been donated by friends of the Society, under the guidance of a Committee whose chairman was Mrs. Clive Hunting.

More than 140 lots were auctioned by the hosts, Knight, Frank and Rutley, under the supervision of chief auctioneer Mr. Jack Guy. Lots ranged from furniture and silverware to paintings executed and donated by members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, including Vera Lynn, Inia Te Wiata and Vince Hill.

Many people in the audience were "amateurs", no doubt inspired by the "Going for a Song" T.V. programme and all entered into the spirit of the occasion. A few sat rigid in their seats, frightened even to scratch their ears lest they should up the bidding by £10.

The Duke of Rutland, President of the Sale, encouraged all present to spend their money in support of spastics. Gross proceeds were in the region of £1,500, some of which will go to the S.O.S., some to Groups donating paintings, and the rest to The Spastics Society.

BIG WINNER

A lucky first dividend winner in the Regional Pools Promotion competition, Mrs. H. Thomas, of Cowplain, Hants, was recently presented with a £3,647 cheque by Roy Painter, the ex-England footballer and Portsmouth captain.



Among the many cards received by Prince Charles on his 21st birthday was one with 21 spiders painted on it. The three feet high card, together with about 10,000 signatures, was presented by Spyder, the group of young Londoners who raises money for spastics.

The group had decided to combine wishing the Prince a happy birthday, with a fund raising scheme for spastics. Well-wishers all over the country were asked to sign forms which were

presented to Prince Charles with the card, and to give a silver coin which would be used to help spastics. Altogether, the scheme raised about £250.

Four Spyder representatives arrived at Buckingham Palace to present the card. They are (left to right) Anthony Sutcliffe, chairman; Susan Jackman, committee member; Tim Randall, vice-chairman; and Clare Cunde-Cooper, secretary. They were filmed by an ITN news team and interviewed by the Press before handing over the card at the Prince of Wales' Office.

A blooming pot plant sale

Azalias, cyclamen, chrysanthemums and about a dozen other varieties of pot plants will be on sale in the Board Room at The Spastics Society's Headquarters in Park Crescent, London, W.1., on December 16 and 17. All of the plants have been grown at Thorngrove, the Society's agriculture and horti-

culture Centre, near Gillingham, Dorset.

The plants will be brought to London by the van load. Mr. Edward Rhodes, Warden at Thorngrove, hopes to sell about £150 worth of them. "The plants would make ideal Christmas presents," he said. More than 1,000 pot plants are produced

annually in the Thorngrove glasshouses.

Also on sale will be handicraft items produced by other spastics. These will include jewellery and other items suitable for Christmas presents.

A special feature on Thorngrove appears on page four of this edition of Spastics News.

A NEW PLAN TO HELP CHARITIES

An imaginative plan which could make available millions of pounds to hard-hit charities, and provide relief for tax-payers and ratepayers, has been put to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by The Spastics Society.

In a letter to the Chancellor, Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of the Society, made a renewed plea for reducing the rate of betting duty payable by charitable football pools. He went on to suggest that, in the meantime, there was a strong case for putting aside the pools betting duty raised from all charitable pools to form a fund, under the supervision of trustees, from which all service charities would benefit.

This was announced by Mr. Burn at The Spastics Society's Annual General Meeting in London, attended by about 300 people from all over the country.

EXAMINATION

At the Meeting, Mr. Burn stressed the need for a thorough and sympathetic examination of the tax structure and its adverse effect on all

charities. This review should cover the whole field of taxation and should include purchase tax, estate duty and pensions as regards charities, donors and disabled persons. In place of the disincentives which now prevail, he asked that positive steps be taken to provide attractive tax reliefs and incentives. Although this might lead to some immediate loss of funds to the Exchequer, the loss would be infinitesimal compared with the total tax revenue raised. It would, in fact, be of benefit to the Exchequer, since charities would be enabled to capitalise and finance more services, especially those of a pioneering nature. In the long run the relief to the tax-payer and the rate-payer would be substantial.

Since the introduction of the Finance Act, 1964, which widened the definition under which pools betting duty was

(Continued on Page Six)

Heart operation is successful now Baby Craig is home and happy



While undergoing weeks of intensive strain and worry during recent legal proceedings against one of the various competitions run by his company, Douglas Arter, Chairman of Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., has had a secret personal family worry gnawing at him. For the man whose company has been Good Samaritan to thousands of spastic children and many other handicapped people, this other worry was a grandson with a hole in the heart.

Members of The Friends of Spastics League will be glad to learn that tiny Craig Shute has now had a successful operation at the Bristol Children's Hospital to close the hole.

"It was a time of great anxiety for us all while the baby was having his operation,"

Mr. Arter said, "and while I do not want to talk about my personal problems it was a sharp reminder to me once again just how important is all our work of helping the handicapped child."

Mr. Arter, whose organisation has raised over 23 million pounds in the past 12 years for handicapped children and other charities, has five other grandchildren. In spite of the recent difficulties which 1969 has brought to "The Spastics" he and his colleagues are convinced that they can now start to win back lost ground and maintain the charitable contribution on which so many depend.

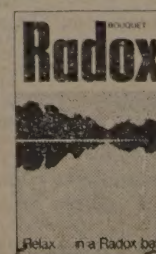
Left: Baby Craig is home and happy, with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shute and grandfather, Mr. Douglas Arter. (Picture by courtesy of Bristol Evening Post)

Relax in a Radox bath

After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.

Have the water just comfortably hot. Slide right down in the bath. Linger in it for at least 10 minutes. Fatigue and tension just float away in warm water made soothing and fragrant by Radox. It's a comfort to both tired mind and weary body. Your skin is left smooth, soft and refreshed. Soap lathers better. Hardwater scum and 'high tide marks' are eliminated. A quick rinse with plain water and the bath is left clean and inviting. Then, off to bed: relaxed in body and mind. You'll sleep better and wake refreshed.

Radox makes a bath special.



A NICHOLAS N PRODUCT, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

Two records for Remploi

MR. Arthur L. Stuchbery, Chairman of Remploi Limited, the government sponsored organisation for the employment of the severely disabled, announced the achievement of two records when he presented the Company's annual accounts for the year ending March 31, 1969

Remploi's sales for the year amounted to £8,788,000, an increase of £724,000 or nearly nine per cent over the previous year, and the highest ever in the company's 24 years of operation.

The number of severely disabled people employed was also the highest ever. The average for the year was 7,352, which was 335 more than the previous year's average, and the end of the year total of 7,538 was the largest number employed by the company at any one time.

RIISING COSTS

The accounts had their less bright side. Costs, including wage increases, had risen by approximately £550,000 and as a result the excess of expenditure over income rose, not quite as much, by £409,000 to £4,362,000—after charging for depreciation.

Commenting on the effect of continued inflation on the company's costs, Mr. Stuchbery said: "I believe this partial containment of rising costs is a credit to all concerned, especially when looked at against a background of the rising Index of Retail Prices of some 7.7 points or 6.3 per cent." He explained that inflationary tendencies hit Remploi particularly hard since the productivity of its employees was lower than that of fit labour.

Other points from the Chairman's review:—

Income from sales met some two-thirds of the company's subsidy required to maintain the 86 factories in useful work. total operating costs of £13,150,000.

NEW FACTORY

The annual output per disabled employee (excluding material) has risen from £648 to £683.

If Remploi did not exist the burden of benefits and allowances to the unemployed disabled, together with the loss of income to the public funds in the form of Purchase Tax, Income Tax and National Insurance contributions would be little less than the government

There is a continuous programme of improvement in premises. A new factory at Ashington in Northumberland has replaced the old one at Bedlington. Extensions have been carried out at Anniesland in Glasgow and Alfreton in Derbyshire. In the near future the Treforest, South Wales, premises will be greatly improved and enlarged, and a new factory will be completed at Stockton-on-Tees.

Remploi has been extending activities in the export market. Exports for the year ending March 31st, 1969, increased by over 37 per cent, and during the current financial year this improvement has been more than maintained.

World-wide company makes £500 gift to spastics



WHEN Spastics Cards Ltd. salesgirl, Jeanne McClay, visited Gramco U.K. Ltd., the sales administration arm of a leading mutual fund, she had high hopes of selling a large number of Christmas cards. But Jeanne got more than she bargained for. The Company placed an order for 1,000 cards and made a donation of £500 to The Spastics Society.

The cheque was presented by Mr. Hans Ashbourne, Director of Publications from Gramco (U.K.) Ltd. (pictured right) to Mr. John Kellett, The Spastic Society's Assistant Director (Appeals), at the Company's offices in Millbank Tower, S.W.1.

Said Mr. Ashbourne, "All of us here at Gramco are keenly aware of our good fortune and of the pleasant surroundings in which we earn our living. But in the words of our President, Rafael G. Navarro, "this sense of well-being must be tempered by a feeling of responsibility and concern for other less fortunate than ourselves."

"This donation is intended as tangible evidence of our concern and responsibility. Just as our own Children's Foundation is helping to care for the needy and deprived in many countries of the world, so is your own organisation bringing relief and hope to the handicapped thousands living here in Great Britain."

Thanking Mr. Ashbourne for the generous donation, Mr. Kellett said the money was all the more welcome because of recent severe setbacks in the Society's fund-raising efforts brought about by the House of Lords decision to tax Charity Football Pools.

"We now have to redouble our efforts to raise money," he said, "and to explore new methods of bringing in funds to help the thousands of people throughout Britain who are suffering from cerebral palsy. The generosity of companies such as Gramco," he added, "was warmly appreciated by the Society and by the many spastics it was trying to help."

Gramco (U.K.) Ltd. is the sales administration arm for distributors of USIF, Real Estate, a mutual fund investing in American real estate and sold in over 60 countries of the world.

Customers of the Filho Inn, Holmwood, Lancashire, have collected £65-10s. for the Oldham and District Spastics Society.

Be with it—we are: We print quality ball pens, silk screen as well as heat press offering up to 50 letters and spaces a line. Also we can reproduce your letterhead or illustration. Professionally printed from £4 per 200, inc P.I. Samples etc., N.I.D.A. (X), 159 Clapham High St., LONDON. S.W.4. 01-622-9222

READY FOR A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AT SCHOOLS AND CENTRES

THE approach of Christmas is always heralded by a spate of feverish activity at The Spastics Society's Schools and Centres up and down the country, and pupils, staff and residents are getting on with preparations for Christmas festivities.

A round up by "Spastics News" showed that all the Schools and Centres will be having some special celebrations, and many have their December calendars packed with activity.

Christmas is children's time so naturally it's the Schools who are busiest. Several are putting on pantomimes and concerts.

At Ingfield all the children are taking part in a play called "Noah's Ark" which has been specially adapted for them by the headmistress and the staff. The pupils will have great fun because they will be dressing up as the various animals, and will have a chance to show off their acting talent to the general public who have been invited to attend for two of the three performances.

Craig-y-Parc is one of the busiest schools. The grand Christmas concert for parents and friends includes a nativity play and a puppet play. The puppet play was written by the children and will be performed in the special puppet theatre at the school.

They have a special event at their Christmas party—eight children will be presented with their Duke of Edinburgh's bronze awards by Cardiff's ex-director of education, Mr. Robert Presswood, and at the same party the Royal Ordnance Factory, Cardiff, will put on a pantomime and distribute gifts via Father Christmas.

Pantomime

The children will also take part in the Red Cross carol service in a Cardiff church—a tradition which the school has upheld for 13 or 14 years. Some of the children will be singing solos before an audience of 700 and others will be giving Bible readings.

Thomas Delarue School has its own pantomime put on by the children—"Beauty and the Beast" and the children in turn will be the audience for the carol concert by Orpington Junior Singers.

Outing

Meldreth is another school with a very full programme. Cambridge University Light Entertainment Society will put on a pantomime for the second year running and Geest Industries of Spalding are providing special entertainment at the children's Christmas Party. There will also be grand shopping sprees in Royston, Cambridge and Ipswich made possible by local organisations such as the South Cambridge Rotary Club.

It's not only the schools who have full programmes either. Coombe Farm at Croydon will be making several outings, including one to London to see the Christmas lights in the West End. They are also mounting their own panto with the help of the Friends of Coombe Farm. Puppets are popular entertainment at Christmas it seems for the Richard James Puppets will be putting in a special appearance for the residents.

Jacques Hall will be "christening" their new workshop, which was converted from the historic barn in the grounds, with a Christmas party there, and Ponds has a family social evening complete with pop group for family and friends.

Backstage

Residents of Dene Park are off to see "Little Boy Blue" which is being put on by a local amateur dramatic group and the children at Nottingham Family Help Unit are also off to the theatre. They will be watching Harry Worth at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, and hope to fit in a backstage visit as well.

Thorn Grove, the Society's agricultural centre, will be celebrating Christmas country-style with a skittles evening at a local pub—they thought that would be a change from the more usual Christmas activities.

There are too many festivities planned for us to mention all of them. Needless to say every Centre has several parties—for children, residents, staff, family and friends, with visits from Santa Claus, plenty of turkey and plum pudding and carols round the Christmas tree—everything in fact which goes to make a happy family Christmas.

Employment moves and news

Recent employment moves and news are as follows (training centres in brackets):

STEPHEN ASHWORTH from Walkden (Lancaster) is working as a machine operator at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Patricroft.

RICHARD BENTLEY from Manchester (Sherrards) has a new job and is now working as a trainee wire weaver for a firm in Sharston.

NORMAN BURNS from Gateshead is employed as an apprentice frame maker by Greames Optical Service.

PETER CAUSTIN from Slough (Sherrards) is employed locally as a dairy hand.

DOREEN CHECKLEY from Birmingham (Sherrards) is working for a local firm as a viewer.

SUSAN COLLARD from North Finchley is working again at a local laundry.

GRAHAM COSTAR from Brixham (Lancaster) is doing general office duties in a local store.

TERENCE DORE BOIZE from West Wimbledon (Sherrards) is working locally for Paxtons Ltd.

KENNETH ECCLES from Castleford is working at Remploi.

LINDA JULIEN from Hamersmith (Lancaster) is working as a trainee punch card operator for International Computers Ltd. in Putney.

LINDA LAWREY from East Acton is working temporarily in the post room of the Society's Headquarters at Park Crescent.

SUSAN MELLORS from Mastin Moor is employed as a hand sewer in a factory in Staveley.

JOHN MOONEY from Widnes (Lancaster) is working as a trainee capstan operator for a firm in Speke.

EDWARD NAYLER from Wandsworth has changed his job and is now working part-time as a gardener.

JOHN PER from Bromley-by-Bow is working as a clerical officer in the Education Research and Statistics Group at County Hall, S.E.1.

JACQUELINE RAWLINSON from Preston is working locally as a trainee computer programmer for the British Aircraft Corporation.

ANTHONY SELWYN from Salisbury (Sherrards) is now working as a capstan operator for a firm in South Harrow.

MICHAEL SKINNER from Coulsdon (Sherrards) is working as a general handyman for a firm in Croydon.

TERENCE SMITH from Bromley is now employed by the local Borough Council as a road sweeper.

ROY VECK from Worthing (Sherrards) is working as an apprentice capstan operator for a local dental manufacturing firm.

DESMOND WATKINS from Peterborough (Sherrards) is working as a warehouseman for a local Mail Order company.

GRAHAM WOLFE from Northampton has a new job and is now doing clerical and petrol pump work for a garage concern.

PHILIP YOUNG from Prestwich (Lancaster) is employed locally as a trainee accounts clerk.

NICHOLAS TRUEFITT from Islington is employed as an internal messenger by a West End departmental store.

ANONYMOUS DONATION

The Halifax and District Spastics Society has received an anonymous donation of 50 pound notes tightly packed in a brown paper parcel.

This followed a statement in a local newspaper that the Society was short of money. The donation was accompanied by the following note, "I read that you are short of funds. Please accept this money. Well Wisher."

LATEST DESIGNS

PROCEEDS of an autumn hat show, held at Hawcoat Townswomen's Guild, Barrow-in-Furness, were donated to the local Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society.

Seven members of the Guild acted as models for the evening, showing off the latest designs in millinery.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

THE WARDEN OF KYRE PARK CENTRE, KYRE MAGNA, TENBURY WELLS, WORCS., TELEPHONE KYRE 282

is looking for a rather special person to join his staff in caring for, at present, 28 adolescent and adult spastics. In return we offer generous holidays, superannuation scheme and a salary within the range of £830—£1,090 plus £50 p.a. adult allowance and £75 Qualification Allowance. Less £205 p.a. for emoluments. This

SENIOR HOUSEPARENT

position offers an opportunity of interesting and rewarding work with physically and mentally handicapped residents of both sexes. If you have experience in both or either of these fields, hold a nursing qualification and the work appeals to you, please write or telephone to the Warden giving full particulars of age, marital status and previous experience.

High hopes for a Christmas Card record

SENDING out Christmas cards presents a king-sized headache for most of us. We have to be careful not to forget Uncle Sid in Australia, Aunt Jemima in Chipping Sodbury—and ought we to send a card to the couple next door to whom we have not been speaking for the past four months?

All this pales into insignificance compared with the problems facing Spastics Cards Ltd., which annually sends out millions of Christmas cards. This year the Company hopes to top ten million card distributions, and to crack their 1967 sales record. When Spastics News visited the Company half-way through November about 2,000 orders were being dealt with daily.

"But we have by no means reached the peak yet," said Mr. Graham Payne, Marketing Manager of Spastics Cards Ltd. "The number will rise dramatically towards the end of the month and early in December. In the past we have dealt with up to 2,500 orders in one day."

Quick and Cheap

How does a relatively small company like Spastics Cards cope with such a vast quantity of orders? The company is, of course, admirably geared to the task. It relies on a carefully worked out routine, up-to-date equipment, and a well trained workforce.

The orders are carefully sorted, and cheques, postal

orders and cash received with them are checked. Orders are stamped with a control number and collated into batches of 50. This ensures that each order can be located at any stage between receiving and dispatching.

Nearly all of the orders are received on the company's brochures. Three copies are required, one for the Despatch Department, one for Accounts and one for filing. Photocopying machines are a quick and economical method of producing these copies, which are also made up into batches of 50 corresponding with the original batches.

Photocopying is also a quick and economical way of producing address labels for each order. Addresses written by

each customer onto their orders are photocopied onto gummed sheets of paper, which are then guillotined to form the labels. This method saves both time and labour, and has proved to be more accurate than typing the addresses.

"At first we thought parcels would go astray, especially where the customer's writing was not very clear," said Mr. Payne. "Instead, we find that fewer orders go astray than when they were typed."

Packing

In the dispatch department, photocopied orders are received in their batches of 50. Cards for each order are selected and placed into individual cardboard trays. They are then packed, weighed, stamped and put into postbags ready for dispatch. Large orders are packed into cartons and shipped off by road or rail.

Employees in the Dispatch Department work from 8.15 a.m. till 5.30 p.m. when there



Mr. I. Cresswell (fourth from left), assistant secretary of Ipswich Y.M.C.A., presents a £105 cheque to Mr. R. Pettitt, of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society. The money was collected during a raft race on the River Deben, organised by the Y.M.C.A. (Photo by courtesy of Evening Star, Ipswich)

is half-hour break before the night shift begins. This lasts from 6 p.m. till 10.

The central filing department holds a record of every order received. It can locate individual orders at any stage of the procedure, and cope with any enquiries concerning the orders.

In addition it supplies information for a punch card system, which can be used to determine marketing trends. This is of enormous help to the Company, providing information on how cards and other products are selling in various categories. It helps the Company to plan ahead.

Money matters

The Accounts Department checks money received against orders, works out commission for various agents, and looks after the many other financial aspects of the Company's activities.

In addition to the straight forward postal orders, Spastics Cards provides a service for customers who require their names and addresses to be printed on their cards. It supplies cards to groups and retailers and copes with a whole host of special orders.

"This year our range of cards is the biggest and brightest ever," said Mr. Payne. "It is 25 per cent larger than in 1967, when we had a record sales year. And we have increased our range of products considerably. We are expanding all the time, and we have even bigger plans for Everyday cards and further diversifications next year."



When it came to publicising the sale of Spastics Christmas Cards officials of the Manchester and District Group decided that they couldn't go wrong with the combination of animals and a pretty girl.

The girl in the picture is Miss Louise Taylor, chosen as "Miss Reporter, 1969" by a local newspaper. Elephants are by courtesy of Belle Vue Zoo, Manchester.

RADIO FOR CARE UNIT



Mrs. P. Curtis, Chairman of the Arle District Rangers and Parents' Association, presents a radio set to Mr. C. R. Sharp, of the Cheltenham and District Spastics Association. Mrs. P. Raggatt, the Arle District Rangers' leader is on the left of the picture. The radio will be used by spastics at the Group's care unit.

(Photo by courtesy of the Gloucestershire Echo)

Beauty tips for the shaky handed

BEAUTIFYING oneself is becoming less than an ordeal for females with disobedient hands. New methods of packaging and presentation are increasingly helpful, from the humble toothpaste tube with a big screw cap which gives a bit more grip, to an expensively lush bath sponge impregnated with soap—picking up a small slippery piece of soap can take minutes!

The roll-tip deodorants save many a spill and muttered curses over lids that refuse to un-screw or re-screw. The roll-tip principle is now applied to a brand of foundation which was previously in a screw top bottle—small and very dropable. Some perfume bottles (who hasn't spent 10 minutes trying to put back those beastly little rubber stoppers?) also

have roll-tips preserving one's perfume and one's temper.

Pressed powder also saves a lot of waste through spillage. Some nail varnish bottles have big enough brush/caps to afford a proper grip and if you find one you can manage, clean it out with some varnish remover and keep it when you finish that bottle to use in lieu of less convenient ones.

Roll-on mascara is much easier to cope with than the fiddly little brushes that come with block mascara—you can grab it with two hands. The thin brushes to paint on eye liners are very tricky to handle—the paint splashes into the bargain. I cheat by using a felt brush-pen. I don't think it is harmful. My eyelids have not dropped off yet!

Have a beautiful Christmas!

Cheques at Ipswich

... at Norwich



Michael Anderson and Wendy Chapman, of Nelson House, Gurney Henderson School, Norwich, present a £131 cheque to Mr. James Hipwell, Chairman of the Norwich Spastics Work Centre Management Committee. Looking on is Mr. L. Pickering, Work Centre Manager. The money was raised during a sponsored walk by school pupils and will enable the Committee to make the final payment on a new minibus. (Photo by courtesy of the Eastern Evening News)

... and Castleford



On behalf of Castleford and District Spastics Society, the Rev. S. Fell, Rector of Castleford, receives a £600 cheque from Mr. C. Bywater (chairman) and Mr. A. J. Healey, of Castleford Round Table. Round Table members took 18 months to raise the money with a charity football match and other local events. The cheque will be paid into the Group's holiday home fund.

(Photo by courtesy of Pontefract and Castleford Express)

A growing industry thrives at Thorngrove

THE next time that you water your favourite indoor geranium or carefully nurtured cyclamen, spare a thought for the residents of Thorngrove, the Spastics Society's Agricultural Centre near Gillingham, Dorset. They have already raised more than 1,000 pot plants this year.

"Raising houseplants has become quite a profitable venture for us," said Mr. Edward Rhodes, Warden at Thorngrove. "Over the years we have built up a reputation for providing top quality stock. We sell the plants to local garden centres, from market stalls and at functions. We even took a van load up to London for sale."

"In 1966, which was our first year, we produced only 30 plants using an old lean-to-greenhouse. The following year two more greenhouses were added and we produced 350 plants. More than 1,000 plants were grown and sold last year and already we have topped the 1,000 mark this year. Two more greenhouses will be built shortly and we intend to expand this side of our activities."

"Raising pot plants is particularly suitable work for spastic men and women, who are able to carry out the entire procedure from planting to selling. Of course much of the work can be carried out indoors, which means that you don't have to stop work in wet weather."

A shop

A recent development at Thorngrove was the construction of a shop, which stands close to the Victorian manor house, in which the residents live. A vast range of houseplants are sold from the shop, and garden tubs, window boxes and plant troughs produced in the Thorngrove workshops are also on sale. Customers can also buy products from spastics work centres in other areas.

Raising houseplants is just one of many agricultural and horticultural activities carried out at Thorngrove. About 30 beef cattle are raised every year. They are bought as week-old calves and sold at 18 months ready for slaughter. When the cattle are out to graze during the summer months, the calf sheds do not remain empty. Week-old calves are brought in, and raised till they are three months old, when

they are sold through a farmers' co-operative.

A highly successful pig rearing programme is carried out at Thorngrove. The fattening house can hold up to 75 porkers at one time. These are bought at eight weeks old and sold again at three months. Last year nearly 300 pigs were raised, and the mortality rate was less than one per cent—an extremely good average. The piggery is specially designed to accommodate the maximum number of pigs, and to make working conditions easier for the handicapped residents.

Thorngrove's workshops provide a variety of wet weather work. As many as 10,000 seed boxes are produced annually and sold to local nurseries. Garden tubs, plant troughs and window boxes are made. And shortly garden furniture will be produced. The printing and packing of sandpaper sheets, for a local glue company is also undertaken.

The warden

Thorngrove's success is largely due to the Warden, Mr. Rhodes, who was formerly farm bailiff at Studley College, an agricultural college for women which has now closed down.

"We operate on firm economic lines," said Mr. Rhodes. "There is no point in producing things which are just not going to sell. One of the reasons for concentrating on houseplants is because there is a good demand for them."

"One of our advantages is that residents here are relatively lightly handicapped. Therefore we don't need such a high staff ratio as many other centres."

"Residents carry out nearly all the farm work, including such jobs as tractor driving, muck spreading and fencing. Every inch of the fences round this farm was put up by spastics."

"Thorngrove is now fully farmed. You could not do more with 40 acres than we are doing, unless you used intensive methods. We have no plans to go intensive."

Life at Thorngrove is by no

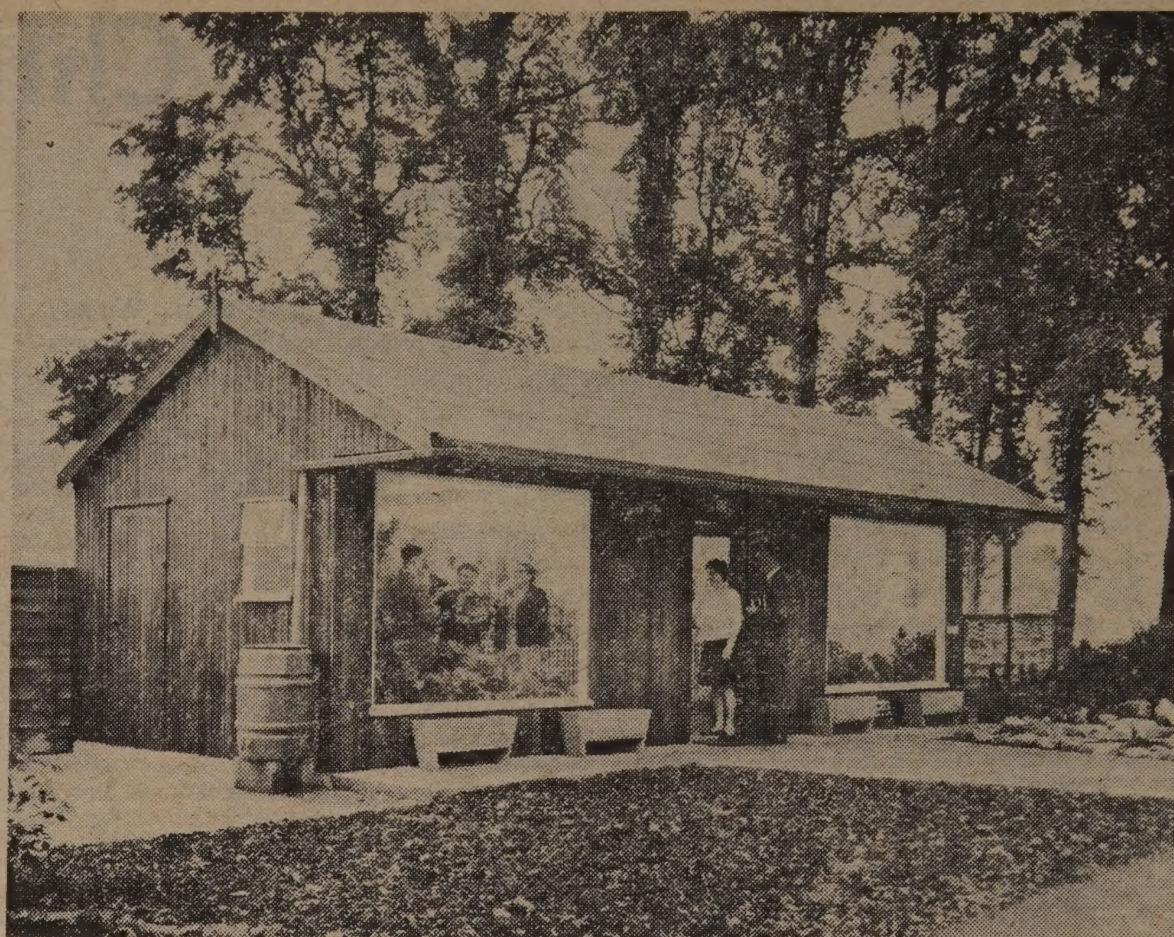
means all work. The residents—aged between 16 and 45—work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays, and between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturdays. They receive 17s. 6d. a week in wages which supplement their 18s. National Assistance money.

Mr. Rhodes encourages residents to organise their own spare time activities. They make visits to local functions, theatres and shows. A mini bus is available for outings and shopping expeditions.

"Farming is a healthy life," said the Warden. "Most residents show a marked improvement in their physical condition in a very short while after coming here. They find that their muscles become strengthened considerably. Those with leg disabilities find they can walk much more easily after a few weeks of farm work."



Residents live in this imposing former manor house, surrounded by the 40 acre farm.



The shop at Thorngrove sells a wide range of pot plants, as well as handicraft goods made by spastics in other centres.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Mr. Leslie W. Hide, Chairman of the Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society, has received a 'Job of the Year' award from Pinner Rotary Club, in recognition of his services to spastics.

Mr. and Mrs. Hide, who have a spastic daughter, started the Central Middlesex Group in 1952 with several other parents of spastics in that area. Mr. Hide has been Chairman of the Group ever since.

Team award

In accepting the 'Job of the Year' award—a parchment scroll—Mr. Hide said that he would prefer to think of it as a team award rather than a personal one. No voluntary society existed merely as a result of its chairman's efforts.

He went on to say that the Central Middlesex Group had

raised over £20,000 during the 17 years of its existence. Most of this money had been spent on building and running the Work Centre at South Ruislip, which now employed 30 spastics on light engineering work.

The Centre would shortly be moving to new premises in the grounds of St. Vincent's Hospital, Pinner, where there would be room for 12 extra workers.

Swimathon

Money is still coming in from sponsors of the Marathon Swim held in Shrewsbury last June, and it is hoped that the final total will be at least £1,500.

The best effort in the Swimathon was made by 11-year-old Judith Rhodes, who swam over three miles and collected £77 from sponsors.

Re-united

Spastics News infiltrates even behind the Iron Curtain. Czechoslovakian reader, Olrich Kikeis, read an item in the October issue, announcing the wedding of an English pen friend with whom he had lost contact. His letter of congratulations eventually found its way to the Spastics News office and has now been forwarded to the appropriate quarter.

All part of the service.

£2000 help

The Monmouthshire Spastics Society has undertaken to contribute £2,000 towards this year's running expenses of the Cwmbran Work Centre.

The Group contributed £1,000 for the same purpose last year and in addition £308 was spent on direct benefits to the Work Centre.

It is hoped that the Group will gradually be able to extend its fund-raising activities so that it will eventually take over complete financial responsibility for the Cwmbran Work Centre.

sions, not allowed to handle money, they have earned in the hospital workshops, many patients are deprived of the basic dignities of human life. However, there is little evidence of widespread brutality by the nurses.

"In a few cases there is certainly unnecessary unkindness," the author concludes, "but for the most part these patients are looked after by people who care, however misguided their ideas in the light of new knowledge... In one important sense the staff have accepted those whom society chooses to neglect."

A.P.

Heartbroken Paul is all smiles again

Paul Nero, an eight-year-old spastic and a keen Beatles fan, was heartbroken when thieves stole his record player, transistor radio and collection of records from his home in Bradford.

After reading of Paul's plight in a local newspaper, Mick O'Neill, disc jockey at a Bradford beat club, made a collection

among club members and £20 was raised.

Through the members' generosity, Mr. O'Neill was able to buy a new record player, transistor radio and copies of the early Beatles L.P.s which Paul enjoys.

The Beatles, who also heard of the theft, arranged

for copies of their latest records to be sent to Paul through "Apple," their record company.

Picture shows Mick O'Neill and Mr. Ian Barlow, manager of the Heartbeat Club, Bradford, presenting the record player to Paul.

(Photo by courtesy of Telegraph and Argus, Bradford).



"PATIENTS ARE DEPRIVED OF HUMAN DIGNITY"

"Put Away", a sociological study of institutions for the mentally retarded, by Pauline Morris. (Routledge and Keegan Paul — £3).

This survey was carried out by the Department of Sociology at Essex University, financed by a grant from the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. It covers 34 National Health Service hospitals and various voluntary homes up and down the country. All types of staff were interviewed and information was obtained about more than 3,000 patients.

The book tells the familiar story of overcrowded wards of ancient rambling buildings amid the permanent stench of incontinence. It points out that the majority of patients are not really "ill" and could live in the outside world if suitable facilities were available.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect put forward by the

survey is that few routine checks are made on intelligence. Many patients who had been in hospital for over 30 years had not had an IQ test since admission, if at all. One wonders how many potential Bill Howes are still hidden away, their intelligence masked, perhaps, by physical handicaps which nobody has ever bothered to treat. As many as 11.6 per cent of the patients are spastic as well as subnormal, yet few of them seem to be given any form of physiotherapy.

Most hospitals provide some kind of schooling for children or occupational therapy and industrial training for adults, but not all patients attend, the book points out. Over a third of the patients had neither been visited nor gone home in the year preceding the research team's visit.

Rigidly segregated from the opposite sex, denied their own clothes and personal posses-

HAWKSWORTH HALL IS UNIQUE and it is one of the most important centres run by The Spastics Society, for it caters for children whose handicaps are so severe that only by careful investigation, research and close supervision can their potential be discovered.

The 26 children who spend from six months to a year there will have already been examined by the psychologists and psychiatrists of the Society. Most of the children are supported by the local authorities but for those for whom the future is less certain the Society pays the cost of their upkeep.

It is a delightful place to visit, because an atmosphere of hope, faith and expectation, mixed with a tremendous amount of fun, pervades the whole community.

When a child enters the school, everything is taken very gently, for the emotional upheaval of removing from his home a child who cannot make normal contact with the world, is considered of the greatest importance. He may be incontinent and completely dependent on adults even to the extent of being fed. It is unlikely that he will be capable of dressing himself.

Learning to live — the play-way

HOPE, FAITH & EXPECTATION

Whilst he undergoes hearing and vision tests — for which specialists are called in — he learns to live the play-way. And the housemothers bestow on these children an affection as near as possible to that which they would get at home.

After the initial tests, which may take a week or two, he goes into his appropriate class for the mornings and receives individual tuition in the afternoon.

NURSERY

The nursery class caters for all ages since, whatever his age, the child may have been so over-protected that he has not yet outgrown nappies. Or he may go to the teacher for emotionally disturbed children where he learns to mix and play with others; to the teacher for the partially deaf where he will learn not only to lip-read but to understand sounds and make reactions with the use of

special equipment.

Hawksworth Hall is not lacking in special equipment. For the partially deaf there is a machine and earphones, and when the child hears a sound he shows a certain reaction. And for music there is a special recording machine which he can only hear with his earphones but which other children, without hearing defects, can hear naturally. From this he learns to understand music and can join in a percussion band.

For the partially sighted, a teacher, trained to work with blind children, helps youngsters to learn to read by a variety of means. One is a fluorescent blackboard on which the words are drawn with wax. The other is a special reading machine which indicates an object and different words, and if the correct panel is touched with finger,

nose or hand, the word is said aloud by the machine—it's a form of computer—and as I watched a little girl work it she learned to recognise and connect sounds and shapes in a remarkably short time.

In every classroom there is a sandpit. Not a sandpit standing on four legs, but one in which the children can dig and delve and enjoy themselves as naturally as if they were at the seaside.

MOVING ON

Because of frequent case conferences held between the Headmaster, the paediatrician, the psychiatrists and other members of the staff, when the time comes for a child to move from one group to another, the move is automatic.

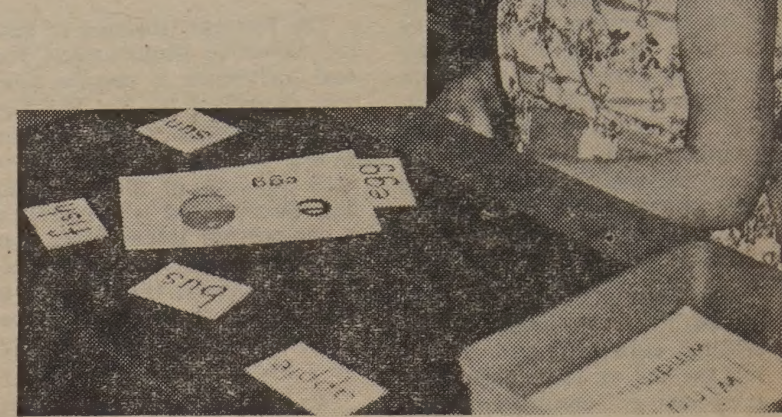
Physiotherapy is in essential part of the children's lives and many learn to make movements that were previously thought impossible. Speech therapy includes the knack of learning to feed oneself.

Not all the children who attend the school attain success, but at least a third go on to normal physically handicapped schools or the Society's schools and a similar number go to training centres.

Children who have been registered as mentally defective often end up in normally physically handicapped schools.

Deborah was one of these. She came from the West Country, from a close-knit family into which she had been adopted at four weeks old. Before she reached her first birthday it was discovered she was a spastic, suffering from severe athetosis. The only advice the adoptive parents received for the little one they had learned to love was that she was an imbecile and should be put away.

When Deborah reached school age, since she couldn't even speak, the parents fought endless battles with the authorities to get help with her education. And when none was forthcoming, they taught her themselves. With her bright, alert



eyes, she learned to communicate and since her hands flapped about uncontrollably, she used her nose to play dominoes and a variety of games that were educational and informative, and to do intricate jigsaw puzzles.

HER CHANCE

Eventually, at nine, her parents succeeded in their battle to get her into a training centre, which changed the course of her life. Those running the centre realised that this was no idiot-child with whom they were dealing, but a little girl who, given the chance, might justify a normal education.

And so, at 10, Deborah went to Hawksworth Hall. Mr. J. D. Johnson, the Principal, saw the eager face of Deborah, her flashing eyes able to respond to his questions despite her lack of speech. He watched her as they talked, her unruly arms and hands jerking her balance. Then he took her gently by the knees, stilling the little form, and realised that if he could resolve the problem of her hands, he could begin to solve her other problems for she had beautiful head control.

So the staff trained her to sit on her hands and when she did this automatically she was stable and ready for the next stage. She resented the headband with its pointer, when they first put it on, but when she found that with this aid she could learn to turn pages of a book, to paint, to type and so to communicate properly, her

progress was tremendous. By the end of the first term she was writing letters home. By the end of the third term she had made such progress that she was removed from the register of mentally defectives and was accepted by a normal school for the physically handicapped.

As I said, not all the children are success stories. One sad case I saw was a lightly handicapped little girl of 10 who had gone to the school because it was thought that a disability not yet discovered might be causing her behaviour disorders, which had so far prevented her from being accepted elsewhere. Her future is very, very uncertain, for she is inclined to wander around at night and do damage in spite of supervision. This poses a great problem for the school, for destructive, violent behaviour has a very deteriorating effect on the other children. It has been discovered that she is possibly also deaf and with her tendency to run away unless supervised, as she did when at home, this makes the situation doubly difficult. Nevertheless, she'll be given the chance of at least a term to try and fit her into society.

FIRST STEPS

With Jimmy, however, it's a different story. He came from a very large, very poor family where, despite her problems, his mother had made great efforts with him and he was admitted purely on social grounds. He was a lively little lad who couldn't walk, but crawled around on his knees. He had a long way to go before walking was considered important. The only toys he had ever had were pots and pans, and when he saw the variety of play equipment, he was so fascinated he spent all his days playing with the little cooker, making meat pies, boiling potatoes, scouring his pans until they were clean and complaining if the teacher had forgotten to give him a saucepan lid. When he went upstairs to bed, he couldn't believe that he had his own bed, his own locker, and kept saying, "Is it mine; is it really mine?"

For nearly a term he was allowed to just play until he had played himself out, and then he was eager to learn. Fortunately his speech was good and he learned so fast that he had the answers to questions before the others had time to think. At the end of a year he was walking slowly and has now gone to the Society's Wilfred Pickles School. If he'd never gone to Hawksworth Hall he would probably never have had formal education.

If only 50 children a year are given the chance of leading a near normal life, the cost to The Spastics Society is well worth while.



Morning assembly at most schools is a formal, stuffy affair. Not at Hawksworth Hall where the start of the day is more like a glorious game.

MEXICO HERE WE COME!

A United Kingdom side to contest the World Cup? It's an interesting thought — and one that will cause a certain amount of head-scratching for five leading soccer experts. For the experts, headed by sports broadcaster Kenneth Wolstenholme, have the job of selecting a United Kingdom team when they act as judges in a competition being run by Britain's largest charity pool.

Prizes in the competition, for members of the Spastics Pool, are 50 three-weeks' holidays in Mexico to see England defend the World Cup title. The prizes include Grade 'A' tickets to the World Cup games and pocket money for the trip.

The "selectors" in the competition are Stan Cullis, Tommy Docherty, John Charles and Peter Doherty. They have already drawn up a short list of 49 players from the four home countries.

More than £23 millions have now been donated to various charities by the Pool and the new competition is part of a membership drive to help make up the loss of income to charity caused by the adverse decision in the recent betting duty case in the House of Lords.

A fair held at Cleethorpes by the South Humberside Spastics Society was attended by over 1,000 people and raised £325.

PATIENT SKELETON

Handicapped children, accustomed to visiting hospitals and various treatment centres, often show a keen interest in other patients' disabilities.

One six-year-old, of an enquiring turn of mind, decided to enliven the waiting period at an artificial limb unit by exploring his surroundings.

Opening a nearby door, he caught sight of something which held his fascinated attention for some minutes.

"What's the matter with him?" he finally demanded.

His mother hurried over in some embarrassment, fearing that the might have interrupted some private treatment session.

The "patient", however, was a skeleton, hanging up in the lecture hall.

Clubs appeal

A recent appeal to working-men's clubs in Durham has already resulted in £700 being sent to the Durham County Spastics Society.

About 38 clubs in the county have responded to the appeal by organising special concerts and the Society is hoping to hear from over 60 more before the end of the year.

The money will go towards a new £62,000 residential home for spastics at Framwellgate Moor.

The home, which will have 25 beds, will be the first of its kind in the county. It will accommodate spastics employed at the Sunderland Work Centre,

A successful tombola and competition evening held recently at Huntingdon realised about £130 for spastics.

Now — a two handled mug

For many handicapped people, the ordinarily simple process of lifting a cup or a tumbler, with safety, is a two-handed job and not just a delicate grip of finger and thumb.

In an effort to alleviate this difficulty of drinking The Spastics Society made a study of all the cups, tumblers and so on made by the trade — including the hospital type feeders with the lip and spout. None were really suitable. Then we heard of a two-handed beaker, a feature of the "PETO" discipline, designed to train those suffering from cerebral palsy to overcome their difficulties.

Professor Peto, who operates in Budapest, introduced the beaker which bears his name. His training system has been adopted by the Lady Zia Wernher Centre for Spastics at Luton, and through the initiative of Mrs. E. Cotton, the Centre's physiotherapist, we received one of the "Peto" beakers.

Practical experience at Luton showed that the beaker should be virtually unbreakable and the Society's two-handed mug is therefore made in high density polythene — for which the trade name is "RIGIDEX."

The capacity of the beaker is three-quarters of a pint so that a half pint will not overflow for the shaky-handed. The handles will accommodate the whole hand of a child and not just a finger or two, which is the difficulty of the normal tea cup. For the aged and arthritic user the handles are easy to grip.

Dimensions are: Height 4 inches; width at the base, 3 inches, size of handles, 3 inches or half an inch. Present stocks are coloured ivory but later on a greater variety of colours will be introduced.

Unfortunately the beaker is subject to Purchase Tax at 13.75 per cent, which will mean retail sales at about 3s. 9d. Through The Spastics Society, the cost will be 2s. 6d. plus 6d. postage.

Quantity orders should be addressed to: The Principal, Sherrards, Digswell Hill, Old Welwyn, Hertfordshire (accompanied by a cheque or postal order made out to The Spastics Society). Smaller orders may be directed to the Society's Supplies Officer, 96, Portland Place, London, W1N 4EQ.

A demand has been established for the same sort of beaker but with one handle. The cost here would be 2s. 6d. plus 6d. postage.



MICHAELMAS

Worthing Assembly Hall was transformed into a market square complete with bandstand for the local Spastics Society's giant Michaelmas Fair.

Lady Munro, who performed the opening ceremony, presented a gift cheque from the Duchess of Norfolk, to the Society. The Fair raised £337, which will go towards the annual expenses of the two centres run by the Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society.

New plan to help charities

(From page one, column six)

assessed, The Spastics Society had suffered an accumulated loss of income amounting to about £2,200,000, said Mr. Burn. Plans to shorten the queue of spastics desperately needing help had been shelved. Severe reductions had taken place in the Society's building programme and expansion had been seriously curtailed. The flow of money for new centres for spastics was now a mere trickle.

Mr. Burn denounced the administrative machinery for assessing, collecting and refunding the tax on covenanted subscriptions as "cumbersome and irritatingly slow." Companies and individuals should be able to denote sums to charities for shorter periods with less rigid formalities and should be allowed relief against taxable income.

Wealthy people making covenants were obliged to pay a substantial 'fine'. For example: Maximum income tax and surtax rates of 18/3d in the £ leave the top tax-payer only 1/9d in the £. If he covenants £1 to a charity, he must allocate nearly £7 of gross income to make the relevant net payment of only 11/9d.

"Is this not absurd, illogical and unfair? A solution must be found so that either the charity recovers the full amount of tax actually suffered by the donor without the arbitrary limit of 8/3 in the £, or the donor himself must get full tax relief on charitable covenants to encourage him to make greater donations for charitable purposes.

BIZARRE

"If persons make gifts to charities" asked Mr. Burn, "why should the Government claim

estate duty from the charities if the donor dies within twelve months of the gift being made? Indeed a bizarre type of lottery."

The farcical situation of paying Selective Employment Tax and reclaiming it months later was described by Mr. Burn as "a scandalous waste of manpower and stationery." Worse still, in view of the time lag, the Government was receiving a compulsory interest-free loan from all charities. In the case of the Society, the amount of the loan averaged £20,000 per annum and rose each quarter to a peak of about £40,000.

Mr. Burn suggested a new charter for the disabled.

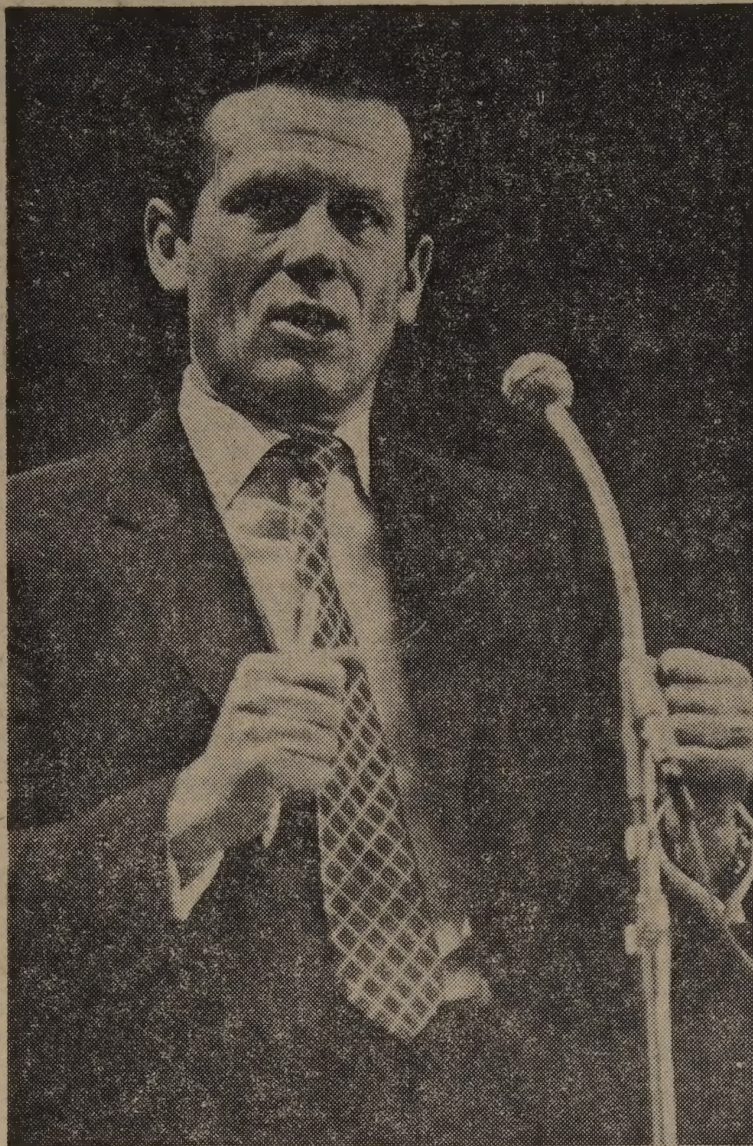
● All disabled wage earners must be given additional tax relief on their income, he said. There should be a specific allowance to help cover the extra expenses they incurred on clothing, footwear and home help.

● Mr. Burn appealed to the Government to help disabled drivers by exempting specially adapted vehicles from purchase tax. He also said that disabled persons who qualified for the invalid tricycle provided by the State, but who decided instead to purchase a motor car with hand controls, should receive an allowance equivalent to the cost of the tricycle they were saving the authorities.

The disabled should be allowed to travel at reduced rates on public transport in all towns and cities.

● He made a strong plea for graded pensions to be paid to those who are born disabled or become handicapped, just as they are paid to war-disabled and to the industrially injured. A man 100 per cent disabled as the result of his work, married with two children, was

VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE



The role of voluntary societies in Britain was absolutely crucial, said Lord Balniel, Shadow Minister for Social Security, speaking at The Spastics Society's Annual General Meeting.

He said that just after the war, many people were saying there would be no place for voluntary organisations, because the work that they did would be looked after by the Government.

"In fact it is people like Alec Dickson, Sue Rider, Leonard Cheshire and Megan du Boisson who have pioneered social reform," he said. "And they have done it largely by stimulating and crusading through voluntary organisations.

"It is organisations such as The Spastics Society which have pioneered much of the work which cannot ever be undertaken by administrations of governments whatever their political complexion might be."

RECONSTRUCTED

Lord Balniel said that Britain's social services were being reconstructed. During the first 25 years after the war, social services had been based on the Beveridge Report, which was written during the war and based on the experience of the 1930's.

But times had changed and there was an awareness that this structure which had served so well and for so long, was now becoming outdated. The time was now right to move forward to a new radical, revolutionary change.

Lord Balniel said that more money should be allocated for the care of the mentally subnormal. Looking forward to 1972 and 1973, the plan was to devote 4.4 per cent of the hospital building programme to hospitals for the subnormal.

"That is not good enough," he said. "We have got to devote more money to these hospitals, and the aim must be to make smaller units. We should set a firm time limit, and say that by such and such a date there shall be no unit in our subnormality hospitals which cares for more than 30 adults or 20 children together.

"The vast wards which exist at present are simply not compatible with the modern medical treatment needed for these particular kinds of patients.

KNOCKED DOWN

"We go on patching up, painting, repairing and reconstructing hospitals which any commercial enterprise would have knocked down 50 years ago. We have inherited a legacy which stretches back for generations now. There are hospitals with the Prince Consort's foundation stone laid in them. We must bulldoze

them down and rebuild area by area."

The past 12 months would have a considerable effect on the future of caring for the subnormal, said Lord Balniel. But sadly this was not because of any great advance in these services. It was because there have been a series of findings by tribunals about allegations of ill treatment, because of a recent coroner's report, because of a recent fire at Shelton Hospital, and because of increasing press, television and professional and public demand for reform of these services.

"The public conscience has been awakened in these past 12 months," he said. "It has been hurt and it is our duty to lead public opinion to give greater attention to this problem."

INTEGRATE

Lord Balniel said that more emphasis should be placed on the community care services. This applied to the elderly, to spastics and to physically handicapped people of all kinds and to the mentally handicapped. The theme should be to integrate these people into the community and not to isolate them from it, he said.

"Of course there are many children and adults who can't be cared for by the community. But in our hospitals there are many people who could live their lives more happily in the community if supporting services could be developed," he added.

"Apart from social and humane considerations, it is actually cheaper to care for people by providing them with home help or training in the community or sheltered lodgings than it is to provide for them in a hospital."

WORK STARTS ON NEW CENTRE

Building has started on a new £25,000 spastic children's Day Care Centre at Barrow-in-Furness.

The site has been leased to the local Spastics Society by Barrow Corporation at a nominal rent.

The building will include living accommodation for a matron and provision for children to stay overnight if necessary.

A charity concert held recently at Wickersley Social Club, Rotherham, Yorkshire, raised £31 10s for the Sheffield and District Spastics Society.

A trophy for Tees-side "we doubled our target"



"When I set the Tees-side Spastics Society's fund raising target for Spastics Week, some people said I was dreaming," said Mr. William Martin, who organised the Society's Spastics Week activities. "But we raised over £3,000 which more than doubled our target—and the money is still coming in."

Mr. Martin was speaking at The Spastics Society's Annual General Meeting, after receiving a trophy awarded by the Southampton and District Spastics Association to the group which contributed most outstandingly to Spastics Week. The trophy — made in the Southampton Work Centre — was presented by Mrs. W. A. Burn,

wife of the Chairman of The Spastics Society.

"This award has really put the Teeside Society on the map," Mr. Martin added.

Before the presentation, the Chairman said that 40 groups had done particularly well during Spastics Week, and 25 of them had raised more than £1,000 in addition to their normal funds.

The Spastics Society had received more publicity during Spastics Week than in any other week in the Society's history. The goodwill generated during the Week would pay handsome dividends.

Above Mrs. Burn presents the trophy to Mr. Martin.

entitled to a maximum of £27 a week, including family allowances. A man in exactly the same personal circumstances, disabled from other causes, only received £10 per week. A housewife employed full time in the home, disabled by accident or disease, was entitled to absolutely nothing.

URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Spastics Society was badly in need of more voluntary workers, said the Director of the Society, Mr. James Loring, who introduced the conference "Challenge for the Seventies," which followed the Annual General Meeting.

"It is very important for us to accept that no matter how many helpers we have, we shall still not have enough," he said. "At present some groups are overworked.

"If we do not increase the number of our volunteers then we, as a Society, will die. All the money raised centrally is not enough to meet the Society's needs. We must generate concern among the mass of people who care about our work."

Mr. Loring said that financially, things may get worse for the Society, before they get better. A tough period lay ahead and this could mean a reduction in services. But it would not follow that the Society would become less influential if it became more compact.

The Society was a dynamic organisation which had changed perceptibly over the past few years. But it would be foolhardy to forecast exactly what changes would be made in the next few years.

SHOE SNIP

There is a bargain offer of strong lace-up children's shoes for ages to 14 years; black or brown.

They are available at £1 a pair plus carriage, discounts for quantities from the Scout Headquarters in London.

Potential customers please contact Mrs. Clay, (Tel. 01-834 6005) at Scout Headquarters, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

S.K.

EXECUTIVE RE-ELECTED

All members of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society have been re-elected.

Mr. W. A. Burn, of Rose Walk, Purley, Surrey, continues as Chairman, a position he has held since 1966. Mr. Burn and his wife have strong connections with the Croydon and District Spastics Society.

Mr. H. W. Palmer, of Carew Road, Northwood, Middlesex, continues as joint Vice-Chairman. He has been a member of the Executive Council since 1964 and has served as honorary

treasurer.

Mr. A. P. Moira, of Lonsdale Road, S.W.13, one of the four founders of The Spastics Society, also continues as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Moira is a special member of the World Commission on Cerebral Palsy.

Other re-elected members are: Mr. D. B. E. Belson (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. C. E. Adey, Dr. C. A. Cooke, Mr. J. F. G. Emms, Miss J. Garwood, Dr. Margaret Griffiths, W. G. Jehan, Mr. J. L. Peterson, Mr. T. T. Rees, Mrs. L. Stockdale, Mr. A. A. Tyrer, and Dr. R. A. Yorke.

More care for the Subnormal

More than 160 delegates from seven counties attended The Spastics Society's South East Regional Conference, held at International Students House, Park Crescent, London, W.1. The Conference was opened by Mr. Christopher Mayhew M.P., who was also Chairman.

Delegates included representatives from local groups and local government officers. Other organisations represented included the British Red Cross Society, the British Youth Council, the National Association of Youth Clubs, the National Deaf Children's Society, the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, the Save the Children Fund and Toc H.

The theme of the conference was subnormality. Dr. Albert Kushlick, Director of Research in Subnormality for the Wessex Regional Hospital Board, pointed out that there was an urgent need for more residential care facilities for severely subnormal children and adults in Britain. He said the number of severely subnormal adults needing residential care was on the increase, and existing facilities were overcrowded.

PLANNING

Planning of future provisions for the subnormal was extremely important, he said. And few people would suggest that they should be developed along the same lines of existing ones.

There were many ways of providing new services which would achieve more in the progress of subnormal people, and would provide greater help for their families. Administration difficulties and costs should not prevent the introduction of new and better services.

Dr. Kushlick said recent researches had shown that there were two basic patterns of residential care for severely subnormal children. There were establishments which contained elements of rigidity, block treatment and regimentation, depersonalisation and social distance between the children and the staff. These were termed "institution orientated". Other centres, which avoided these characteristics, were termed "child orientated".

The pattern of care was not determined by the size of the centre so much as by the type of unit and the training of staff. But researchers had found that hospitals for the mentally retarded showed most "institution orientated" characteristics, while residential homes for normal children and many local health authority hostels for severely subnormal children showed the least.

HOSPITALS

"We will not know the true potential of the severely mentally retarded until we have begun to provide them with



ANITA HUNT

the effective services they need," he said. "We have a long way to go."

Miss Anita Hunt, Research Associate at the Department of Child Development, London University, said there were 8,000 children in subnormality hospitals throughout England and Wales, and 2,000 were on the waiting lists. A further 22,000 were living at home and receiving local authority services.

"It is widely held these days that hospitals are not suitable places in which to rear children," she said. "And many of the children in subnormality hospitals do not need nursing care. Dr. Kushlick's plans to remove children from hospital environments, and to place them in small hostels are very important."

Miss Hunt said plans were being made to repeal Section 57 of the education act which deemed all children with an I.Q. of less than 50 to be ineducable. If this came about subnormal children would come under the umbrella of the local education authorities, rather than the health authorities, or the Regional Hospital Boards.

These children would then be subject to the education amenities to which all children had a right. But it would be necessary to ensure that children confined to wards because of sickness receive these amenities as well as those who

did not need nursing care. They should not be deprived of their educational rights simply because they had a medical condition.

During the conference delegates saw the film "Three for Society," in which three spastics describe how they have learned to live with their handicaps. There was also an open forum, in which delegates put questions on the problems facing both the physically and mentally handicapped to a panel of experts.

Walking for White Lodge

A sponsored walk from Whitehall to the White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey, was recently organised by the South West Surrey Group. Nineteen walkers took part, including Brian Fletcher, a spastic member of the group, who walked 14½ miles of the 25-mile course.

Just over £900 was raised towards a new extension at White Lodge, for which a further £5,000 is still needed before next April.

Wedding bells for Vicky



The first wedding reception ever to be held at Coombe Farm Centre for spastics, took place last month following the marriage of Vicky Moya, the Centre's Spanish housemother to Mr. Dennis Collins. Residents and staff plus 30 other guests attended the reception which lasted from 3 p.m. till 10 p.m. when Vicky and her new husband left for their honeymoon.

The following account of the event is from Ann B. Pearce, a resident at Coombe Farm.

It was a wedding which won't be forgotten. Some of the staff went to the wedding while the residents, dressed in fancy frocks and suits with button holes, lined the main corridor to watch the bride who was dressed in pink, go to the Church. We can always find something to laugh about at Coombe Farm even on wedding days. The car didn't arrive for the bride so at the last minute a member of staff had to take her to the church in a "Mini."

It was a beautiful day with the sun shining and many of us sat outside to greet Vicky back as Mrs. Collins. The reception was held in our big hall and one could tell how hard Mr. Brady, the Chef had worked by the sight of all the lovely food and the wedding cake. The residents, staff and guests obviously appreciated the good food which quickly vanished. Wine was handed round ready for the toasts and speeches. Vicky, being Spanish, found it difficult to make an English speech but she succeeded and

SHE had been sitting opposite him on the London train. She had changed at Doncaster, where he had changed trains, and now she was sitting in front of him on the train to Hull.

Frank had gone home for a week before the great onslaught for the finals. It was an ominous word, finals. He didn't like it. It had the air of "now or never"; like jumping a ravine. Finality. His notes were on his lap; his eyes were on his notes, but his mind was on her, the girl sitting in front of him. He gave up.

Raising his eyes, he could only see the back of her head, covered with long, black hair. Her head was bent forward, presumably reading the same cheap novel he saw in front of her on the London train. She only raised it to glance out of the window, or order coffee at 2s. 6d. a go. It was then he saw her full profile. He could still see it. Warm, motherly, without a trace of worry or concern. As if she had experienced turmoil, distress and hell, but only in the long-since past. Now she was in paradise; a true angel in heaven.

What a load of drivel. Frank looked down on his notes. You

don't even know who the hell she is. She might be the most bitchy creature on earth. Always getting her own way; a spoilt, silly, nauseating child. That's why she seems so pleased with herself.

On the London train, he had been playing the old game of trying to think of her background, family boy friends. He wondered if she had any. Probably tons. He looked up again onto a mass of light black hairs which lay side by side like lines of troops on parade. Regimented. Spotless. Shining.

It seemed as though she came from the working classes. Her clothes were neat but had the appearance of being well used. Constantly worn. Her bag was in the same condition. Her stockings had holes and ladders. Frank really didn't know why he thought that. Probably

STORY SHORT

got a bloody superiority complex. Big head. It was idiotic categorizing people like that. He looked out of the window, as he thought how often people did it, though. It was like classifying animals without finding out their structures. Why don't we classify people by their structures, instead of their appearance?

How can you say she comes from the dock area of Hull; she only reads sexy novels and goes to the disco every night? You don't even know her. That's the trouble, he didn't know her. Who's fault was that? There had been plenty of opportunity to break the ice. When she couldn't light her cigarette, for instance. Plenty of chances, but he just couldn't follow them up. You've been working too hard, mate. Got out of condition.

She coughed. He wondered why she should go down to London. She might have gone after a job; or possibly she had to see a specialist. She might even have got into trouble. But, surely someone would have gone down with her. They say it's just like having a hair-cut at one of those clinics. Half-an-hour and you're out again. Could she get into trouble? Suppose any girl could. It's life. He thought of her walking back from a disco with a boy. No.

He remembered Mary for a second. He couldn't understand why he liked her so much. Possibly because she showed him her quieter side. She had always come to him in the first year with some problem or other associated with chemistry. And that invariably led on to long personal discussions. Even at the disco, she seemed to prefer slow, sentimental records. Then along came Robin and he saw less and less of that side of her, until he saw nothing.

He had tried to fill the gap with chemistry. It had been pretty useless at that. He felt like tearing his notes into shreds. The train began to slow down as more and more lights appeared through the back window. The train stopped. She sat quite still as several people got off. A young couple got on. It was obvious that they were only conscious of each other. When they sat, they collapsed together like a pen-knife. It was done automatically, as if they had sat in that position all their lives. The train moved off again. She must live in Hull, it was the next stop. She would pick up her bag, walk down between the rows of seats, out through the door, up the platform, past the ticket collector, and out into Paragon Square. Gone.

That would be in 15 minutes.

He closed his notes at the depressing thought. He would make a very inefficient executive. Seize your opportunities, boy. Grab them as if they were the debris of a sinking ship and you, the only survivor. He sighed and looked out of the window. He saw her reflection as she looked out onto the lights of Hull. She slowly inhaled and blew smoke circles in the air.

The minutes slowly slid away. Minutes in which he could only look at the reflection in the window. The train slowed down as it entered the station. She got up, turned and looked at him. He smiled. She smiled back, did up her coat button, picked up her bag and walked down the passage-way.

That's that. Frank picked up his case and followed in her wake. As he stepped down onto the platform, he bumped into her as she was trying to get back in.

"Oh, sorry," she said. "I've forgotten my book."

"I'll get it."

He put down his case and re-entered the carriage. He reached the seat where she had been and scanned it for a paperback. He found one in the corner. He read the title: "Geographical Statistics." He stared at it. That wasn't the one he saw her reading; he was positive.

"Is this it?" he asked, as he gave it to her.

"Oh thanks," she replied, as she flipped through the pages. "Aren't you the bloke who played Hamlet last term for the Drama Society?"

"Yes," Frank managed to say.

"I thought you were all the way from London. But I couldn't ask because... well, in case I was wrong."

There was a pause in their conversation.

"You were quite good, I thought," she added.

"Well, thank you, er..."

"Sue."

He offered to take her bag. They decided to take a taxi seeing it was nearly midnight. As they stood together at the taxi stand one day merged into another. It was a new day, a few minutes old, when they drove off towards the university, still talking about the performance of Hamlet, the term before, even though it was past history to Frank, now he was sitting beside her in the taxi.

MAKES BOWLS FOR SPASTICS



Mr. Ian Thackeray, of York, with some of the wooden bowls which he makes in his spare time. Mr. Thackeray, who has a spastic child, sells his woodwork in aid of the York and District Spastics Group.

(Photo by courtesy Yorkshire Evening Press)

FUND RAISING A PRIORITY

The Spastics Society must build up its conventional forms of appeal, said Mr. John Kellett, Assistant Director (Appeals) told delegates at the "Challenge for the Seventies" conference.

He said it was unlikely that the Society would find another fund raising jackpot like Regional Pools Promotions. It would probably have to rely on more conventional fund raising methods.

"Nevertheless we are always very interested in suggestions for new fund raising ideas," he said. "Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any bright ideas."

Mr. Kellett said the Society's priority in the 1970's would be fund raising. "If we don't make progress in this field then we are finished," he said.

FLAG DAY

He added that this year's Spastics Week had been very encouraging, and future Spastics Weeks would be held. A national flag day would also be held next year. The Society

was also progressing in the field of marketing and hoped to develop this side of its activities.

Vice Chairman Mr. A. Moira, said that in its 17 years history The Spastics Society had spent £14,500,000 on helping spastics. This did not include administration costs. However in the next ten years the Society would need about £13,500,000.

Mr. J. E. Price, Assistant Director (Finance), said the Society's income may fall for a number of years before stabilising. He added that it should always be borne in mind that the main source of income could be cut off.

"For this reason we must respond to the challenge and find new sources of income," he said.

CARS, CASH COLOUR TV's PRIZES

Ten Ford Escort de luxe saloon cars, ten colour television sets and 1,000 £5 prizes are being offered every month in a new competition launched for members of the Spastic League Club. It replaces the old merit competition and involves selecting six photographs of attractive girls from ten published in the Club's weekly bulletin, and placing them in order of merit.

As a secondary part of the competition, members are being asked to submit photographs of their wives and daughters—or themselves in the case of female members—for use in the competition. This will be done on a regional basis, ten girls from each of twelve regions being used in each of the monthly competitions.

Entry in the competition is free to members. In 12 years the club has donated more than £23 million to various charities.

WORLD CUP

The new competition is in addition to the club's current bonus competition in which the prizes are 25 double places in an exciting three weeks trip to Mexico, including tickets for the World Cup matches and spending money.

Club subscriptions are only 1s. 6d. a week and the organisers have announced that each week, one in every 120 members receives a prize or a bene-

fit of some kind. As well as new members the organisers are also looking for additional collectors and supervisors in many areas. The person to contact is: The Organiser, Spastic League Club, P.O. Box 215, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS99 7QX.

FUNDS APPEAL

Birtenshaw Hall school for spastics, Bolton, has launched an appeal for funds to equip a new £25,000 extension wing.

The wing will include an assembly hall, craft room and physiotherapy unit. A grant has been made by the Department of Education and Science towards the extension, but much of the money will have to be raised by the school itself, particularly the money for equipment.

Birtenshaw Hall is an independent school which caters for the whole Lancashire and Cheshire area. It has 46 pupils aged between two and 16.

Pupils collect £1,000

Pupils of Bryn Celynog School, Beddau, near Pontypridd, South Wales, have formed a community services group under the leadership of Mr. Brian Rogers, who teaches religious instruction and social studies at the school.

The group has collected nearly £1,000 for charity and has concentrated in particular in helping the old and handicapped. Members visit Craig-y-parc School for Spastics every Sunday and take the children for walks or help them in the swimming pool. At least 60 members of the group have visited the school regularly.

They have also made table lamps and soft toys for a sale of work at Craig-y-parc.

ON THE BALL!

Snooker exhibitions continue to bring in funds for spastics. Professional players Joyce Gardner and Gary Owen staged an exhibition at Knott End Golf Club and raised £60. Mr. Gardner and Jack Rea raised another £65 when they staged an exhibition at Hitchin Conservative Club.

The Maryport branch of the Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society has raised over £90 with a household collection and a girls' soccer match.



A special Harvest Festival service for spastic children was held at the Lidgett Grove Junior Training Centre, Acomb, Yorkshire. The children brought gifts of flowers and produce which were later distributed among old and sick people. Mrs. Audrey Glew (above), who runs the centre, helps some of the children prepare for the service.

(Photo by courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Post).

The price of success

Mr. Trevor Price, 43, who made news as the first-ever spastic computer programmer, has now achieved a different kind of success.

He has won the silver trophy for bowling in the National Multi-Disabled Sports Meeting at Stoke Mandeville.

Mr. Price told Spastics News afterwards: "Since I first tried to kick a ball as a small child in a wheelchair, I had dreamed of winning a national trophy at any sport. I sincerely hope that my success will encourage a lot of spastics to take up the game of bowls."

Mr. Price, who lives at Prescott, Lancs., has been working as a computer programmer for Pilkington Bros. Ltd. for two years. He reports that the Department of Employment and Productivity is to tell the story of his computer success in a forthcoming leaflet to show employers what disabled people can do.

A GIANT STEP FORWARD...

THE Cerebral Palsy Parents Association of Newfoundland, has taken a giant step forward since the President of the Association, Mr. Bill Hargreaves visited Newfoundland a year ago. It has made vast inroads into the work of informing the public of the problems faced by spastics, providing facilities for spastics and raising funds.

The culmination of the Association's efforts was the opening of a school for 16 spastic children, in September. The school has two academic teachers, a trained teacher's assistant who helps with toileting and supervises lunches, and an art teacher.

Children are transported to and from the school by taxi.

Here is a progress report of the Association's activities over the past year.

In August, 1968, a news sheet entitled "Roundup" was distributed to parents of spastics and to organisations and individuals concerned with spastics throughout Newfoundland and Maritime Provinces.

In October books from The Spastics Society were provided for teachers, and have proved invaluable. A film about spastics was shown to executives of all Royal Canadian Legion Clubs and a committee was formed to discuss the needs of the physically handicapped. Since then the film has been shown widely throughout Newfoundland and audiences included trainee nurses at a children's rehabilitation centre.

In November, a half-day class was started for the physically handicapped. Also a club called the C.P. Adults Association was formed, modelled on the British '62 Club. This meets regularly.

January saw the expansion of classes for the physically handicapped to continue all day. Academic subjects were dealt with in the morning, leaving the afternoon free for art, gym, cooking, shopping and other

non academic subjects.

An information pamphlet was widely distributed throughout Newfoundland in March to doctors, hospitals, district nurses, public libraries, and Legion Clubs. The pamphlet was based on one produced by The Spastics Society, and 1,500 copies were sent out.

C.P. Week was held in May when a publicity campaign was carried out, and fund raising efforts were held. "Little Red School House" collection boxes were sent to pubs, shops, and so on, throughout Newfoundland to raise money.

In June the Association raised \$1,000 to send two delegates to the Third International '62 Club Conference at Reading, England. They attended the conference in July, and four C.P.P.A. members attended the Ninth Maritime Conference on Cerebral Palsy.

In July children attending the Children's Rehabilitation centre began to receive twice weekly embroidery and metal-work classes.

The Royal Canadian Legion Meeting of Executives decided in August to raise money for a school with boarding facilities for the physically handicapped.

GERMAN VISIT

A party of 17 German students and lecturers recently visited England to study residential centres for the handicapped and maladjusted.

They stayed at the Fitzroy Square Family Services and Assessment Centre for the first part of the programme and later transferred to Castle Priory College, Wallingford.

From these two bases they were able to visit Ingfield Manor School and Ponds Home which are both run by The Spastics Society.

Other centres they visited included Condover Hall School for blind children who have other handicaps, the Mulberry Bush School for maladjusted children, St. Ebba's Subnormality Hospital, and Reading Services for the Deaf.

GIVE THEM BOOKS

In spite of all the wonders of this electronic space age and all the marvellous toys now available to children, books remain one of the best gifts that a parent, relative or friend can give to a child. The recipient may not be so immediately enthusiastic but the fact is that books go on long after so many glittering but fragile toys are broken—and children go back and read books again, getting more and more out of them as they mature.

Here is just a very small selection of books available this year.

My first choice for ages nine to 13 is, in spite of the price, *An Alphabet of Assyria and Babylon* (Geoffrey Bles, 28s.).

At first sight this book may seem expensive but in fact there is an amazing amount of material packed into it and while there is much that will delight a nine year old, who will read it as a story, it still has the power to fascinate a much older child who, for the first time, is becoming aware of the delights of archaeology.

Mary Chubb tells in alphabetical form about the archaeological discoveries which revealed the existence of the ancient civilisations of those countries through which the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow. Many of the stories will be familiar to children because they have their basis in the Bible, including the myth of the Creation and the legend of the Flood. But perhaps Mary Chubb's greatest achievement here is that she shows us how the people lived, the magnificent jewellery they wore, their writing and education, their games and musical instruments. Here a child can find the great buried cities of Ur, Babylon and Nineveh, together with the men who ruled them. Jill Wyatt's illustrations are fascinating.

For much the same age group but in very different vein is the *Schoolboys' Annual* and the *Schoolgirls' Annual* (both published by World Distributors (Manchester) Ltd., 12/6d. each). Within the Annual

market, so beloved of children, these two provide really excellent value, provide a balanced mixture of stories, picture stories, sports and hobbies, articles on people and a wide cross section of features.

Another publication from the same publisher, but for a rather younger readership, is *My Fairyland Annual*, also 12/6d. This is packed with 100 large pages of stories, strip stories, poems, games and general interest pages, all in full colour.

If 12/6d. seems a little steep for your budget World Distributors also publish *Once Upon a Time Stories* at only 5/6d. This book is excellent value and tells several fairy stories in words and colourful illustrations.

Finally for eight to 12 year old children World Distributors have an unusual book,

Peter and Wendy's Magic Carpet (price not stated). This tells the story of a little boy and his sister who manage to acquire a magic carpet and set out on a world tour. The unusual feature of this book is that it is illustrated with real colour photographs and on some of them have been superimposed real photographs of Peter and Wendy, sometimes complete with magic carpet.

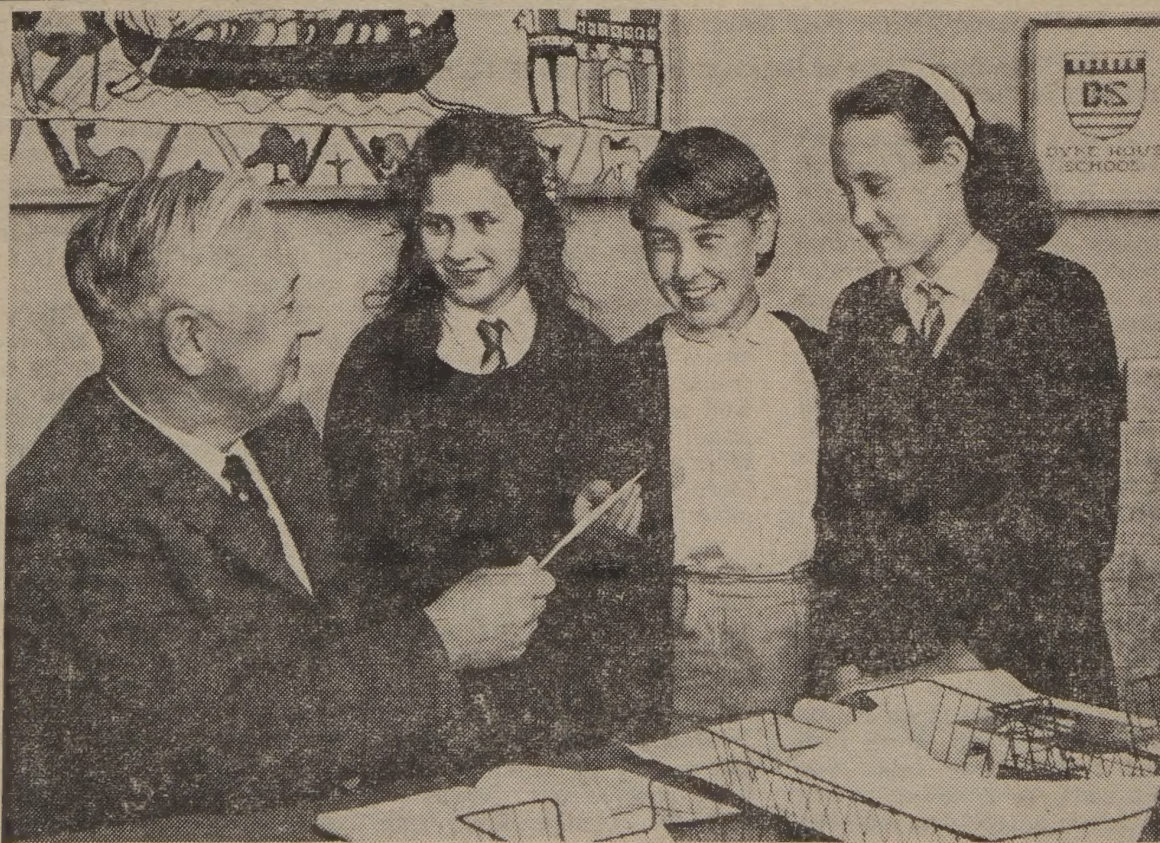
For smaller children just beginning to read look out for the "Beginning to Read" series which are excellent value at 3s. each—good white paper, easily readable type and beautiful illustrations. The series includes "Little Bear's Pony" by Donald Bisset; *Hello Lucy!* also by Donald Bisset; *Peter Climbs a Tree* by Elisabeth Beresford and *Looking for a Friend*, also by Elisabeth Beresford.

For slightly more advanced readers I thoroughly recom-

mend *John and the Red Parrot* (Burke, 9s. 6d.), one of the "I Love to Read" series. This is a story of how two boys find a parrot in the woods and how they save it from a hawk. The text is by Harry Iseberg and it is illustrated, beautifully by Stig Sodersten.

Burke have a very wide range of books for the young readers, or the child who, at about four, is starting to get interested. Their "Words Your Children Use" series are well worth consideration. Two examples are *Gardens and Flowers* and *The Clown*. For really tiny tots and from the same publishers, there is the colourfully illustrated *When the Sun Shines* by Hilde Heyduk-Huth.

The "Little Owls" series produced by the Scripture Union are excellent stocking fillers at 1s. each. There is a variety of titles.



Mr. C. F. Smyth, Headmaster of Dyke House School, Hartlepool, with three of his pupils who raised £5.11.6 for spastics. They are (left to right) Patricia Birks, Lesley French and Christine Hunter, all aged 12.

The girls collected the money by means of a bring and buy sale and competition among their fellow pupils. (Photo by courtesy of the Northern Daily Mail)

Me and my friend

Southampton and District Spastics Association recently received an anonymous donation, accompanied by the following laboriously scrawled letter: "Dear Sir—Me and my friend have held a garden fete today and we have raised 4s. and 4d. Please accept as a gift"

Victor is severely disabled but the quality of his work is impressive.

ART FOR THE HANDICAPPED

At one time, art for adults was considered a somewhat esoteric affair, best left to the professionals or a few gifted amateurs like Sir Winston Churchill. Pure self-expression was thought to be rather juvenile, with the result that many children painted with great vigour and imagination up to the age of 14 or so and thereafter never touched a brush again.

Over the past few years matters have changed. At evening institutes all over the country art is rapidly becoming the most popular subject as more and more adults discover the joys of self-expression.

Overworked businessmen have learned to stave off the ulcers by taking up painting as a relaxation. And countless housewives, inspired by the success of Grandma Moses, have found art classes a welcome release from the quagmire of domesticity.

Art also has a great therapeutic value for the handicapped. The study of design can help those with spatial perception difficulties, while the use of various unfamiliar materials will often improve poor hand control. Best of all, it is an important means of communicating ideas, especially for people with severe speech defects.

The subject has long played a leading part at special schools for handicapped children, but their adult counterparts have only recently taken it up.

Coombe Farm at Croydon



Jane Thomas, one of Coombe Farm's art students.

was one of the first Spastics Society adult centres to hold art classes for the residents. Richard Walker the art teacher there is provided by the local Education Authority. Under his expert tuition, many of the Coombe Farm students have reached a high enough standard to show work at a recent exhibition in Croydon.

I went along to the centre to watch one of Mr. Walker's classes in progress. All the students present were in wheelchairs, but most of them could use their hands reasonably well and proficiency obviously increased with practice. They were painting from imagination and it was interesting to compare the various subjects.

One young man had painted an old country church in a restful green landscape, with pink clouds floating overhead, while another was working on an oriental crowd-scene in vivid stained-glass colours.

On this occasion they were all using water colours, except Victor Hancox, pictured above, who was working in oils, his usual medium. Aged 27, Victor is the most outstanding painter of the Coombe Farm group. He has exhibited with the United Society of Artists and has sold several paintings locally.

His favourite subject is landscapes. Those showing bare trees against the subdued colours of a winter countryside are particularly effective. I also liked his interpretation of a building site with its interesting block-like masses and another showing sunset over a rocky coastline.

Victor paints with his head—literally. He is unable to use his hands and works with a brush attached to the front of his beret. Yet the paint is applied with great precision. He seems to have more control over his medium than many able-bodied painters with the use of both hands.

Victor cannot walk or use his hands and his speech is very difficult to understand. He is, in fact, quite severely disabled, but the quality of his work is so impressive that it is hard to believe he is handicapped at all.

ANNE PLUMMER.



Courage and perseverance — ingredients for success

Courage and perseverance have enabled many spastics to achieve what would be considered by many to be the impossible. Some have overcome enormous odds to become successful, and their example brings encouragement to others. Here is the story of Lance Green, a spastic from Monmouthshire, who is now a researcher in computer mathematics. It is written from notes supplied by him.

Lance is now 22 years old, athetoid, and whilst walking is tiring, he can walk quite quickly if need be. He can feed and dress himself but requires help if he is tired or in a hurry.

He attended an ordinary village Primary School at Raglan, Monmouthshire and developed well academically and socially. For seven years he went to the Thomas Delarue School where his mother worked as a house mother for three and a half

years. Lance's father made the long journey from Monmouthshire to the school as frequently as his duties as a Police officer permitted. After leaving the school he attended the Newport and Monmouth College of Technology two days a week for a year. Altogether, he obtained six "O" level G.C.E.'s and three "A" levels.

On July 30th, 1964, Lance passed his driving test in a DAF automatic car at the first attempt. He then entered University College, Cardiff, travelling daily from his home at Abercarn, 19½ miles away, and later from Rogerstone.

He graduated B.A. (Hons.) 2nd class in mathematics and is now doing research in computer mathematics. Of his stay at the University, he says: "the authorities were most helpful, so were the students in an unobtrusive and material way."

He ends by saying that his story may encourage other disabled people, but that they should not allow themselves to be bullied into attempting what they cannot do. Neither should one be deterred from doing what one knows one can

do. Accept advice, he says, but beware of it!

Behind this success story of a severely physically handicapped athetoid lies his own courage and perseverance against heavy odds, and parents whose fortitude and faith have always been the admiration of all who know them.

Society shop

On the opening day of a shop run by the Watford and District Group of the Hertfordshire Spastics Society, more than £70 was taken.

At one point business was so brisk that customers had to be let into the shop only two by two.

Second-hand goods, donated by local people included football boots, bird cages, men's shirts, armchairs, a television set and winter coats.

Christmas cards and goods made by spastics were also on sale.

GLAMOROUS GRANDMOTHER

At 92 most women would consider themselves past beauty contests. But not Mrs. Millie Harrison, of Thorp Bay. Recently she received £10 for winning a glamorous grandmother competition while on holiday in Norfolk.

Rather than keep the prize, Mrs. Harrison — who has two grandchildren — donated it to charities to help spastics and the blind. "After all I still have my health," she said.

Night raid

Equipment worth £150 was stolen in a night raid on a spastics holiday caravan at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl.

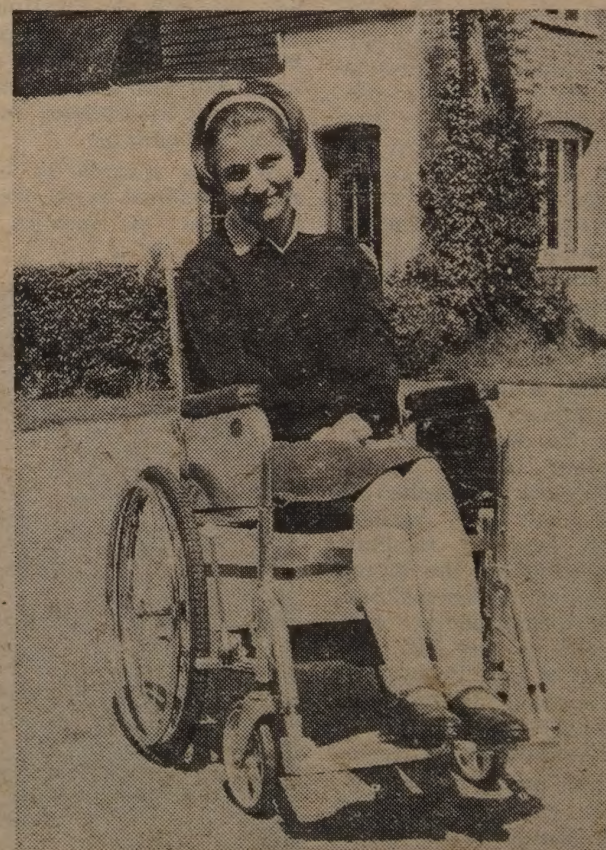
The caravan, belonging to the Merthyr and District Spastics Society, was designed specially for spastics. It was opened for the first time last May.

During the summer, 24 spastics and their families spent a week's holiday free of charge in the caravan. It had just been closed down for the winter when it was raided.

Bedding, household linen, kitchen equipment and crockery were taken, but the caravan was not damaged.

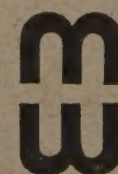
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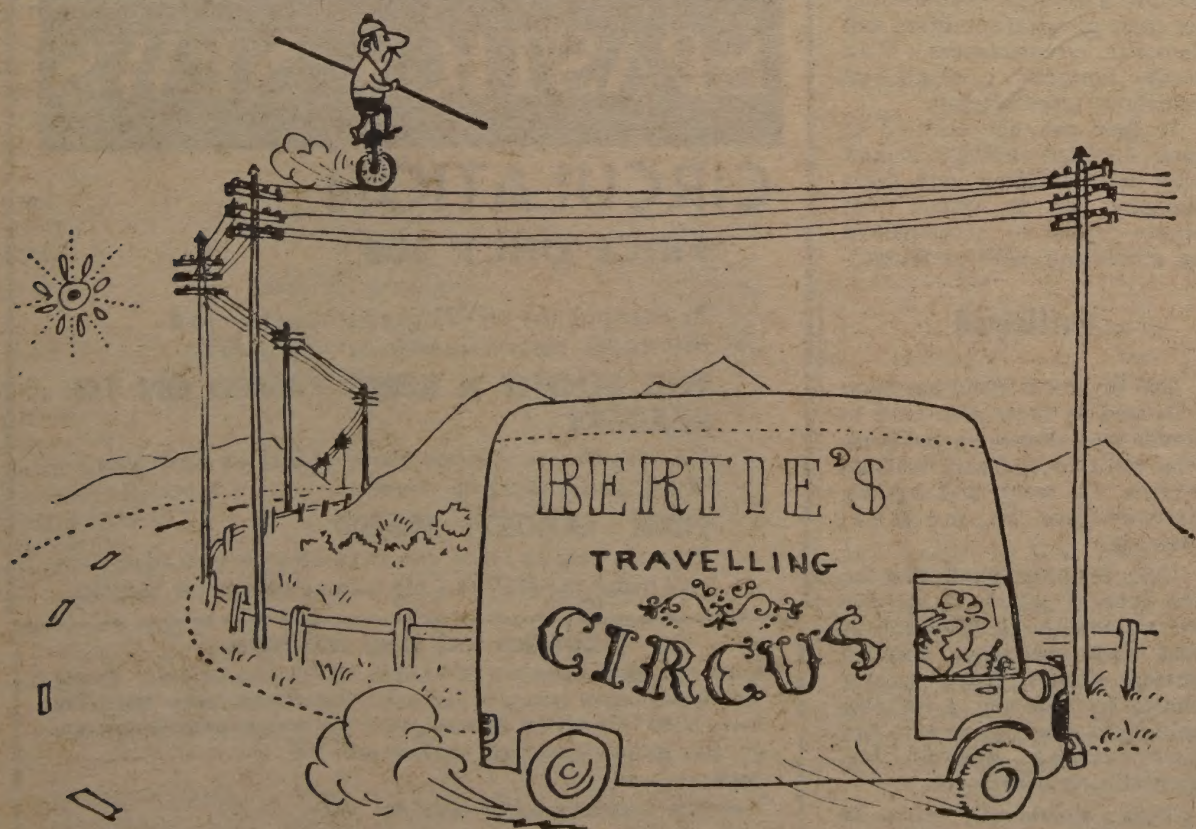
Thanks to the generosity of Leslie Crowther, Margot Rogers, a Shrewsbury spastic, will be spending Christmas in Australia.

Mr. Crowther, who is Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, first met Margot during a visit to Kyre Park Centre where she was staying. She told him of her ambition to visit Australia.

Her sister and brother-in-law who live near Melbourne, had raised half the fare, and Mr. Crowther promised to see what he could do about the other half. Margot later heard that he was going to pay the amount out of his own pocket.

The S.O.S. has organised all the travel arrangements and Margot has an open air ticket which will enable her to return at any time she feels homesick.

A coffee evening held at the Assembly Rooms, Chichester, brought in nearly £82 for the West Sussex Spastics Group holiday bungalow project.



"SUCH A PITY, WE COULDN'T FIND ROOM FOR COSTELLI!"

Wheelchairs for spastics

Three Newton Wheelchairs, costing £115, have been bought by the Birmingham branch of Lions International for the Midland Spastics Association.

The chairs will be used to increase the mobility of spastics taking part in a new type of liberal studies course being pioneered by the Midland Spastics Association.

This consists of an experimental series of lectures and practical lessons in art, writing and music for 40 spastics in the Birmingham area.

The studies are combined with educational visits to such places of interest as factories, zoos, and famous beauty spots.

Round the park

Pupils of Form IV at the Frances Holland School, London, staged a sponsored walk round and round Regents Park. The girls, all aged about 12, raised £140 for The Spastics Society's Ingfield Manor School in Sussex.

The bulk of the money has been spent on a new specially adapted sewing machine and the remainder bought loose covers for the children's chairs.

The sewing machine has large easily-gripped knobs and an adjustable motor control which allows it to be run at a very slow speed. Girl pupils at Ingfield are delighted by the fact that they can now manage to thread their own needles.



Mrs. Hilda Goodwin, 73, of Guildford, Surrey, has dressed over 1,250 dolls and sold them all in aid of spastics. Mrs. Goodwin has been connected with the South West Surrey Group since 1954. At one stage she started a small band for the spastic children who attended the Group's centre in Worplesdon Village Hall. Later, when the White Lodge Centre was opened, Mrs. Goodwin raised enough money to equip the Matron's office. More recently she has turned to dressing dolls, which she sells for 5s. or 7s. 6d.; and a constant stream of orders keeps her busy. Mrs. Goodwin says that her work for spastics has brought her more friends than any other activity in her life. Above: Mrs. Goodwin (seated) with her daughter, Mrs. Walker, who helps sell the dolls.

Get away from the goggle box and do something positive

In this age of mass-produced entertainments, it is always pleasant to hear about people who have managed to drag themselves away from the goggle-box and do something positive with their spare time.

These achievements seem especially worthwhile for disabled people, who have to put just that bit more effort into everyday activities.

Janet Bentley, for instance, has a severe speech handicap. Yet she conducted a complete survey of life in her Worcestershire village as part of the work for her Gold medal in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. Janet, 20, who comes from Blakedown, near Kidderminster, interviewed Councilors and other prominent local people by means of a letter board.

Patricia Fell, a 18 year old spastic living at the Beechwood Cheshire Home, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, has reached the silver standard in the award scheme. Patricia was pushed in her wheelchair by various volunteers over a ten-mile course to complete the Marathon section of the scheme. She also did embroidery and studied make-up and hair styling as part of the "Design for Living" section. Patricia is now working with fellow Rangers for her Gold Award.

Ten senior pupils of Craig-y-Parc, The Spastics Society's school in South Wales, have passed the Bronze Award this year. They are Judith Barker, Linda Harrison, Mary Heslop, Caroline Hopkins, Karen Messenger, Tina Samson, Linda Thomas, Michael Britcher, Kevin Holmes and John Wright. All are hoping to go on for silver medals.

Mandy Short, a young Brighton spastic, has won a different kind of medal. She has been awarded the Brownies V.C. for bravery and courage during her many operations.

Success in training for a career has come to Miss Bar-

KALEIDOSCOPE by Anne Plummer

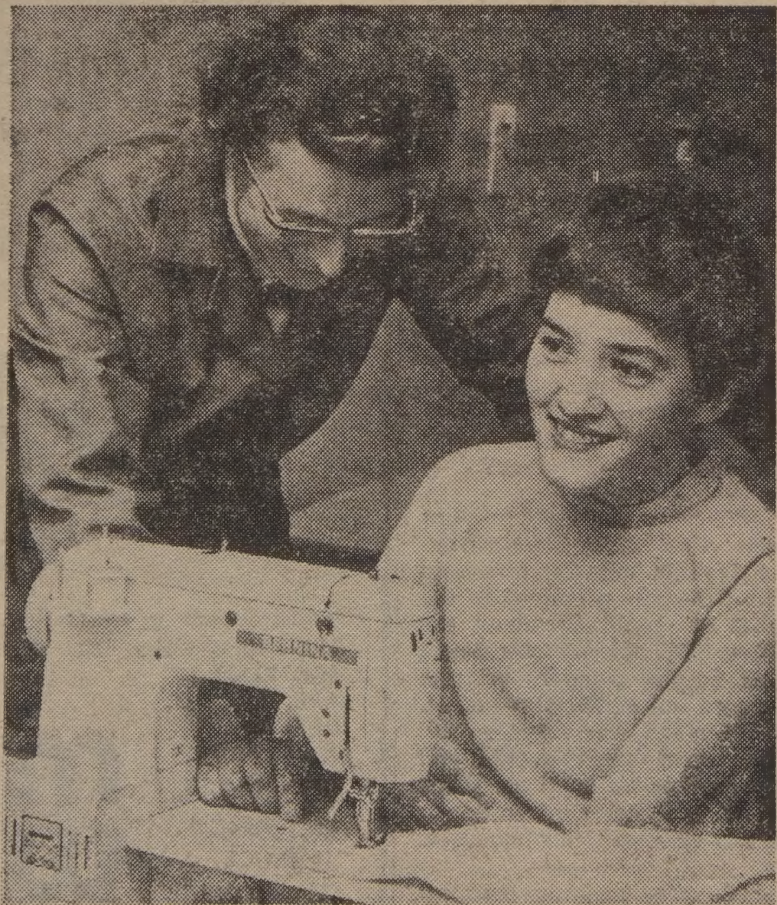
bara Gornall, a spastic from Penrith, Cumberland, who passed out of Secretarial College with flying colours. She has received the Institute of Commerce first class pass for 90 words per minute in shorthand and has also passed the Institute's examination for 100 words per minute.

Winning awards is by no means confined to the younger generation of spastics. Mr.

Dudley Kitching, aged 49, of Doncaster, Yorkshire, has won this year's trophy for the best tape-recording entered by a handicapped person in the British Amateur Tape-Recording Contest. His winning entry, "Greensleeves," tells the true story of a hospital nurse whom he once knew.

Incidentally, Mr. Kitching entered the same story for the Spastics News Short Story Contest earlier this year, but it did not win a prize.

Mr. Kitching, who lives in an old people's home, has only recently taken up tape-recording seriously although he has been writing for a number of years. He is a former North Regional Editor of the Cheshire Smile.



Janet Bentley (right) who has won a Gold Medal in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, with Miss Pat Margetts at the Midland Spastics Association's work centre.

(Photo by courtesy of Birmingham Mail)

Mobility for the disabled — more help is needed

The Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled believes that sweeping changes should be made in the Government's attitude towards providing outdoor mobility help for the disabled. The organisation plans to present a statement on the subject to the Department of Health and Social Security. Here are some of the points the Committee is considering placing before the Department.

● Motoring taxes are now being levied on the assumption that private motoring is a luxury. For the physically disabled who cannot use public transport, private motoring is not a luxury but an essential lifeline connecting them with society. For these people motoring taxes are taxes on mobility and the JCMD believes that the physically disabled should not be subjected to continuing increases in purchase tax on vehicles, petrol tax and road tax.

● Help must be extended to include 'disabled passengers.' The physical disabilities of these people are more than sufficient to entitle them, under existing rules, to an invalid tricycle and so severe that they are unable to drive themselves and have to be accompanied and driven by an attendant.

Tax exemption

Road tax exemption should be granted to 'disabled passengers' who own a vehicle. A mobility grant should be awarded to 'disabled passengers' between the ages of school-leaving and retirement. This grant should be awarded in lieu of the invalid tricycle they are entitled to but cannot drive. The current lack of any help or concession means that some 'disabled passengers' are unable to work and the steady rise in motoring taxes and costs has forced others to give up their vehicles.

The JCMD does not believe that these people should be confined immobile and unproductive in their homes through the lack of such concessions and help.

● The JCMD recognizes that at this time some disabled people find the single-seat invalid tricycle with free maintenance and insurance and the petrol allowance satisfactory for their physical condition and domestic circumstances. For many, however, a single-seat vehicle is unsatisfactory.

If they are not entitled to cars, disabled mothers cannot take their children with them shopping or to school and others cannot be accompanied by a husband, wife or friend.

Criticised

The invalid tricycle has been criticised by those who have to travel long distances, by those who need an entirely reliable vehicle for work and by the haemophiliacs on medical grounds.

Case histories show that no one type of vehicle is suitable for all and the JCMD believes that each individual disabled person should enjoy greater choice in selecting a suitable vehicle to meet his or her own particular medical and domestic circumstances.

They should be able to choose between the following: a. A single-seat invalid tricycle with free maintenance and insurance and a petrol allowance as at present. b. A vehicle specially designed or adapted for the disabled in which passengers could be carried and

with similar concessions and allowances as now accompany the invalid tricycle. c. A grant that would enable them to buy their own vehicle with adequate allowances to offset motoring taxes for those unable to use public transport.

Impossible

In the present economic conditions it is clear that many of the above improvements are impossible if the present system of unselective help is continued. It is probable that improvements will never be possible if the present policy of helping some regardless of their financial position continues.

Apart from motoring taxes, the JCMD would welcome selectivity if it were applied throughout the system to all on a sliding scale starting at a level well above the national average income for males (to take full and realistic account of the greater living expenses of the disabled and their less secure job opportunities) with successively higher income categories receiving proportionately less.

The JCMD would particularly welcome selectivity if it were proved to be necessary in order to extend the help to certain needy categories currently neglected and increase the freedom of choice of the others. The JCMD believes that initial help is necessary for many disabled people trying to rejoin society. Once financially secure, however, the JCMD believe that the disabled, like

the physically able, do not expect continual financial help particularly if this means that other more needy disabled people are neglected.

With regard to mobility out doors the JCMD believes that the best policy for the disabled and for society as a whole is to help the disabled to help themselves and thereafter remain taxpaying citizens independent of state aid.

While some of the physically disabled are without help and others receive inadequate or unsatisfactory help the JCMD is against extending entitlement to help less severely disabled categories than those now laid down by the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS).

The value of a mobility grant and the allowances and concessions now given can be adjusted either to encourage the disabled to rely on the invalid tricycle (which is becoming increasingly expensive to provide, maintain and administer) or to take greater responsibility in providing transport for themselves thereby reducing DHSS administrative overheads.

Welcomes

The JCMD welcomes the current Government Social Survey but believes that it is a DHSS responsibility to assess both the numbers of people needing outdoor mobility help and the effect on demand and on costs of various levels and various types of grant, allowance and concession.

The present lack of information on numbers and on the effects of various levels and types of grant, concession and allowance on the substance of the help that might be given is holding back developments in the system which are now overdue.

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TREATED AS SECOND CLASS CITIZENS

The disabled and the chronically sick have always been put on one side and treated as second class citizens, said Mr. Jack Boydell, Head of The Spastics Society's Publications Department. Mr. Boydell was being interviewed by a Dublin radio station while attending the International Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Conference there.

"The disabled have been cared for, but it has been a pretty passive sort of care with no future in it," he said. "In the past we have just provided somewhere where the handicapped can be reasonably comfortable until they die. It is only recently that we have begun to realise that many disabled people can make a really valuable contribution to the community."

"The community at large is content to care for these people in homes, and to provide them with jobs such as basketry or weaving which will earn them £2 a week or less. It hasn't yet reached the stage where it is prepared to pay £2,000 for a piece of equipment which will enable some disabled people to earn a living wage and pay for the care they need."

"A tremendous amount has been achieved for the disabled, but the more you do the more you find needs to be done. The moment you fill a gap you find

there is another and you have to start filling that.

"Let us take The Spastics Society's own work very briefly as a case in point. When it was first formed its initial interest was in children, particularly children of reasonable intelligence but with a physical disability. So the first things they set up were schools.

"That was fine. That covered the need for special schools for spastics. That filled the gap. But, having got these children through their education, they were still handicapped physically and there was the problem of finding employment for them.

"Another gap had appeared. The Spastics Society then set up sheltered workshops so that the handicapped school-leaver could be employed. Among the school-leavers were very severely handicapped ones needing permanent residential care when parents and relatives could no longer look after them.

"Another gap had appeared and the Society had to fill that with residential centres. The Society then built the Oakwood Further Education Centre in Essex for severely handicapped but intelligent spastics. It is only a small centre, but its computer programming training has produced yet another gap. It

looks as though there may be a need for another type of centre for people of higher intelligence but severe physical disability to do work like computer programming, analysing, statistical work, abstracting, translating and that sort of thing—what I would term an academic workshop. This is another gap thrown up in the process of doing other things."

Mr. Boydell accompanied his son, Dick, a severely disabled spastic, to the conference. Dick, a student at The Spastics Society's Oakwood Further Education Centre, was demonstrating a POSSUM word store typewriter, a prototype of one being built for him with money raised by Charity Princess Miss Tina Peel-Yates.

Water shortage hits treatment

A water shortage in Scotland meant the temporary suspension of hydrotherapy treatment for children at Corseford, the residential school for spastics in Renfrewshire.

Normally, the 75 pupils at the school have hydrotherapy treatment every day or every two days. Therapists were concerned because the water shortage meant a break in the continuity of treatment.



Sheena Drummond, United Kingdom's entrant in the Miss World Contest, recently opened a shop run by the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics. The shop, near Sheena's home in Falkirk, was open for three weeks, selling Christmas cards, calendars and other seasonal items.

(Photo by courtesy of the Falkirk Herald)

Bits and pieces

Although Spastics Week in Wales had to compete with the Investiture as a focus of local attention, the Monmouthshire Spastics Society still managed to make a good profit. Newport branch raised £350, the newly-formed Goytre Committee sent in £74, and outside organisations collected over £250 on behalf of the group.

A group of spastic children escaped injury when their special bus caught fire in Hull recently.

The fire, said to have been caused by an electrical fault was soon brought under control by firemen while the children were cared for at a nearby convent.

Workmen making preliminary excavations at the site of a new spastics' unit at Hortham Hospital, near Bristol, have dug up fragments of Roman pottery.

Archaeologists from the City Museum, Bristol, have been given permission to examine the site before building work gets under way.

A special envelope with a commemorative ninepenny stamp and postmark was issued at Dumbarton to mark the centenary of the launching of the Cutty Sark, which was built in Scotland. Proceeds from the envelopes were donated to Scottish spastics funds.

The newly formed Tyne-mouth Spastics Group held its inaugural meeting at North Shields recently.

A door-to-door collection held by pupils of Christ's College, Finchley, raised over £277 for spastics.

Members of Croydon Youth Council have collected £270 for the Croydon and District Spastics Society. The money was raised by means of a sponsored walk, a jumble sale and a collection at Crystal Palace Football Ground.

A group of minstrels at Arbroath, Angus, held a "Black and White Minstrel Show" which raised £1,000 for the Scottish Spastics Appeal Fund.

Lady Calder, of Braemariston House, Elgin, recently sold two of her paintings and passed the proceeds—£25—on to the Scottish Spastics Appeal.

About £1,000 was raised at a fete held by the Scottish Spastics Appeals Committee at the open-air roller skating rink, Kilsyth, Dumbartonshire.

Members of the Bradford Playhouse and Film Theatre staged a Music Hall entertainment which raised £250 for the local spastics group.

The youngest participant was nine and the oldest 54 in a recent sponsored swim at Yarmouth. The event raised £300, which was divided between Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association.

A donation of £5, given to the local spastics group by the people of Leonard Cheshire Drive, Bootle, Lancashire, has helped to pay the installation costs of a television set operated by remote control for a homebound spastics.

A house-to-house collection in the Alton and Basingstoke districts raised £432 18s. for local spastics. The money will swell the funds for the new Basingstoke Work Centre.

Roll out the barrel



Four young girls donned Victorian costume recently to take a barrel organ round the streets of York. They filled 14 collecting tins in aid of spastics. They are (left to right) Florence Barber, Jacqueline Wilson, Hazel Pickard and Margaret Sanderson.

(Photo by courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Press)

Aids from Sweden

FEW countries are more advanced than Sweden when it comes to providing mechanical aids for the handicapped. The current edition of the Swedish magazine "Now" describes a whole range of new inventions for the disabled, from special wheelchairs, to mechanical arms. Here are some of them.

Wheelchairs are usually designed for indoor or outdoor use. But Per Uddén, a Swedish doctor, has evolved a happy compromise in a chair that can be used in town, across country or at home.

Although it can climb a 6 in. kerb and a 1 in 4 hill, its overall dimensions do not exceed those of a normal self-propelled wheelchair. Called the Permobil, the chair has already been tested on the roughest terrains. It can even climb steps, when they are suitably distanced, and has been known to take one user salmon fishing in Scotland.

Its leg rests can be independently elevated, its back-rest angle changed and its seat angle moved to vary the sitting position—all at the touch of a button. Electrical brakes prevent the possibility of it rolling downhill and there is a variable speed control.

A lightweight version of the chair, intended for not so severely handicapped persons, was introduced recently. This will be manufactured in northern Sweden.

TUNING IN

Operating control knobs and switches can be hard work for those disabled in the hand and arm. If a person is confined to a wheelchair, such tasks are doubly difficult.

A remote control box with buttons which respond to very light pressure is one new answer to this problem.

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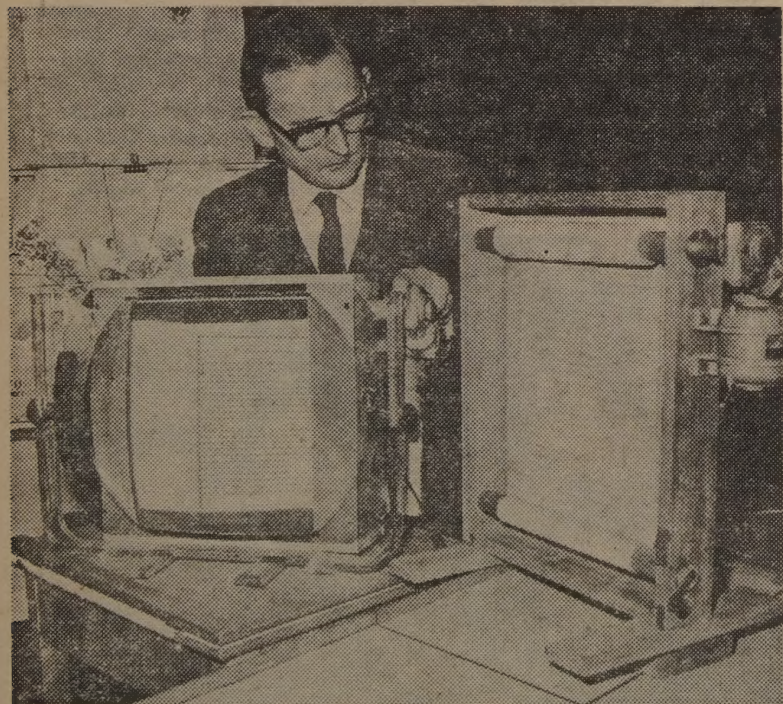
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Passers-by line up to scan the bargains in a shop run by the Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society. The venture, which lasted a fortnight, brought in a profit of £472 for Group funds.

(Photo by courtesy of Wolverhampton Express and Star)



MR. JACK Pettican, a teacher at Craig-y-parc School for Spastics, has invented a reading aid for severely handicapped children which he feels is simpler and less expensive than the conventional page turner.

Books are re-typed in scroll form on 10-inch wide paper, which is then fitted into wooden rollers and wound round by an electric motor, operated by foot control. The only problem is the time it takes to re-type a book.

So far, Mr. Pettican has made three stands for children in his

class but he feels that his idea could be developed commercially. "They would cost only about £10 to make and once there is a basic stock of scroll books I think they would be ideal," he said.

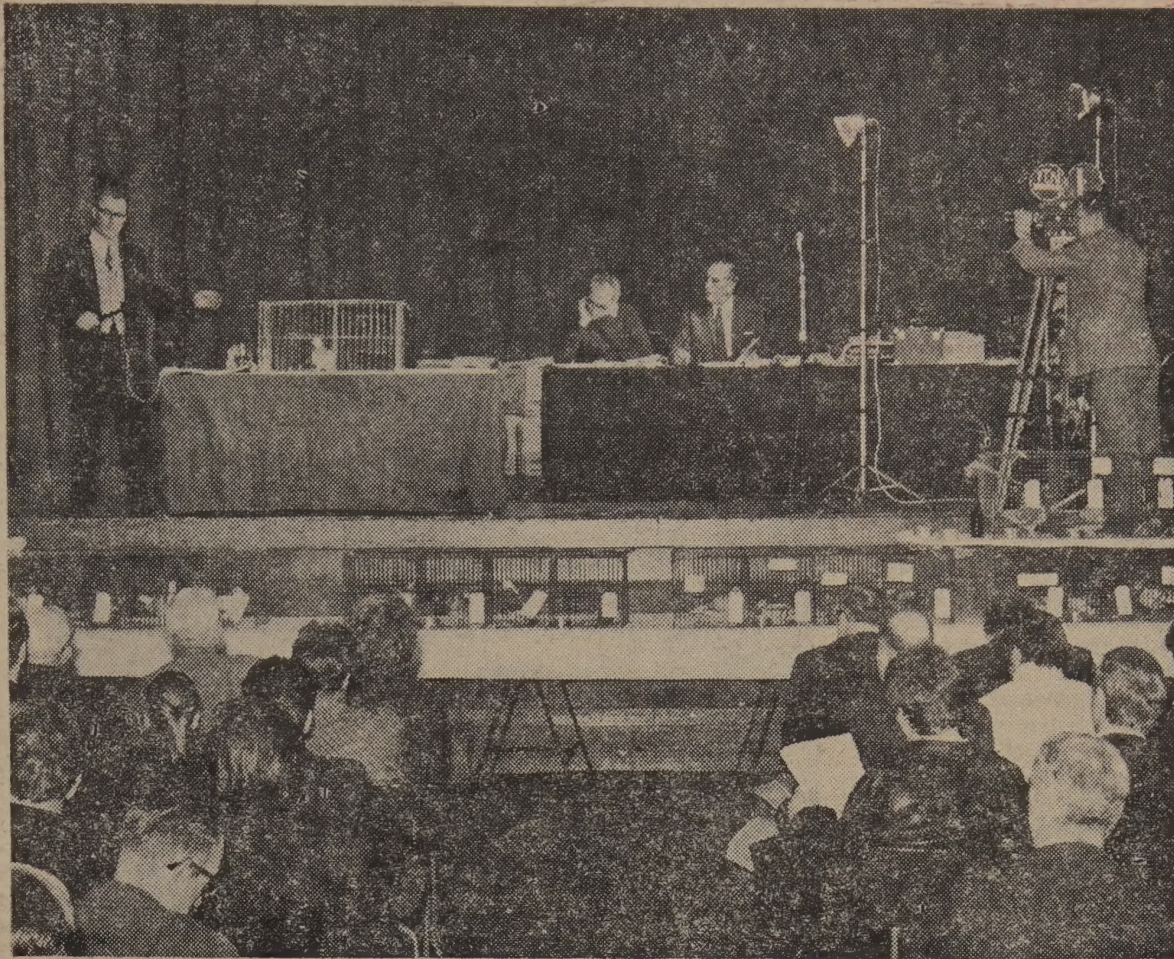
Mr. Pettican is also an expert on the Initial Teaching Alphabet. He has been using it in his classes for five years and has invented a way of teaching numbers by this method.

Above: Mr. Pettican with the reading aids which he has designed and made.

(Photo by Courtesy of Western Mail)

Stamp offer

Here's an opportunity for the philately fanatics among our readers. Mrs. Sybil Gottlieb, of the Special Education Department of The Spastics Society, has donated a complete range of first day covers, featuring Post Office technology. Spastics News is holding an auction for the covers among its readers. Write in and tell us how much you are prepared to pay for them, and we will send them off to whoever makes the highest bid before January 1st. Bids should be sent to The Editor, Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1. The stamps, designed by Mr. David Gentleman, depict a number of technological advances made by the Post Office in recent years.



Above: Wally Pope "knocks down" a pigeon for £250 before I.T.N.'s cameras. Below: enthusiastic pigeon fanciers study the stock before the auction.

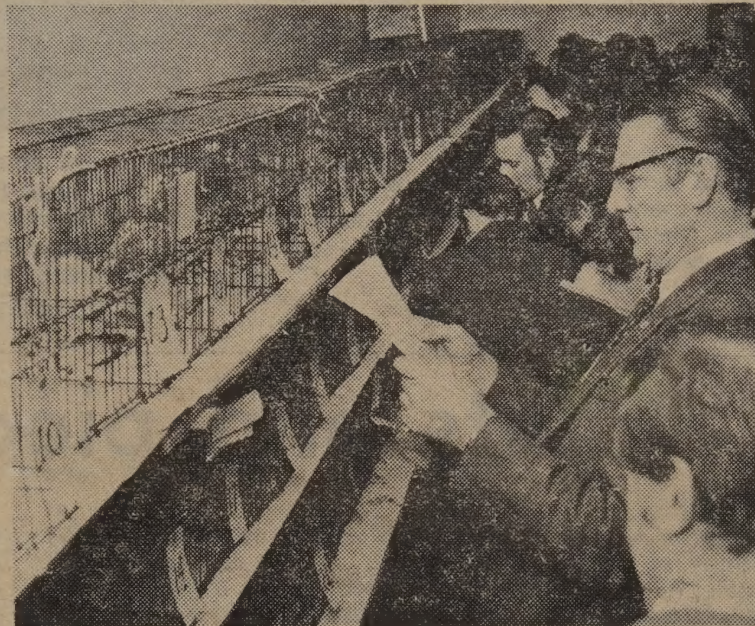
Gold Award

On her 21st birthday, Audrey Williamson, a severely handicapped spastic, heard that she had won a Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Audrey, who is an orphan, has spent most of her life in hospital, although her 21st birthday party was held at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Marie Dickinson, in York.

For her Award, Audrey studied birds and natural history, learned about home nursing and collected glossy magazine cut-outs to illustrate her ideal home. In the service section of the Award Scheme, Audrey typed letters for fellow patients in Scotton Banks Hospital, Knaresborough, Yorkshire, where she has been for the past four years. She types with a rod attached to her head, and it sometimes takes her two days to finish a page.

She also went on seven-day courses in London and Blackpool and flew to the Isle of Man as part of the Scheme. She will travel to Buckingham Palace in March to receive her Award.



JAUNDICE AND C.P.— THERE IS A LINK

It is known that there is a direct link between certain types of jaundice and cerebral palsy, according to Professor Paul E. Polani, Prince Philip Professor of Paediatric Research at London University. Professor Polani heads a team which is conducting research into the causes of cerebral palsy at Guy's Hospital, London.

He pointed out that rhesus blood group incompatibility between mother and baby, and rhesus immunisation of the mother, could result in severe anaemia of the newborn baby. This in turn sometimes caused severe jaundice.

"It was found that a proportion of infants who had recovered from the severe jaundice subsequently showed evidence of cerebral palsy, usually of the chorea-athetoid variety," he said.

It was later discovered that

with this type of jaundice, brain damage was related to the level of the bile pigment bilirubin which reached the blood, he added. The damage was caused by the pigment staining and killing nerve cells in special areas of the brain.

BRAIN DAMAGE

Exchange transfusions could to some extent prevent the brain damage, he said. The transfusion removed the noxious pigment by substituting the infant's blood with donor blood which contained a normal level of bilirubin. A second transfusion was sometimes necessary to prevent a secondary rise of the pigment, which might damage the nervous system.

Newborn infants who contracted severe jaundice due to simple prematurity might show a similar type of brain damage, and exchange transfusion might

also prevent this.

The proportion of children who suffered brain damage as a result of rhesus jaundice was difficult to establish accurately, said Professor Polani. However, it seemed that in the past one third of choreo-athetoid cerebral palsied children suffered from the results of severe jaundice due to rhesus immunisation.

There were certain risks involved with exchange transfusion. The process was not always practical nor successful, and there were a number of other complications. Therefore, the question of direct prevention of immunisation was of the greatest importance.

Recently researchers have concentrated on the use of anti-D immunoglobulin. This was prepared from a serum containing rhesus antibodies obtained from human donors. Injections of this substance into rhesus negative mothers soon after birth of a rhesus positive baby could considerably lessen the risk of a later child being born with rhesus haemolytic disease, anaemia and severe jaundice of the newborn.

The task of providing sufficient anti-D serum for the immunisation of all the mothers requiring it presented a major problem. Supplies of anti-D immunoglobulin were likely to be insufficient unless more blood could be obtained from donors. The Blood Transfusion Service had asked for several thousand donations from suitable mothers to build up supplies.

"These mothers will play a very special part in helping to prevent the birth of rhesus affected babies," he said.

AN OFFER FROM R.I.C.A.

The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs, at 43 Villiers Street, London, W.C.2, recently carried out extensive tests on a variety of electrically operated page turners. The tests will be of considerable value to all severely disabled people, but readers of "Spastics News" have been offered a special bonus.

R.I.C.A. has offered to sell the page turners to "Spastics News" readers at a considerably reduced price. Said research Manager Michael Dunne: "We have two samples of each of the Cambridge, Contact, Lakeland, Touch Turner, Turn a Page and Vewco, and one of each of the Belgique and Steeper brands. We should be very pleased to sell these to any Spastics News readers."

Handicraft scheme

A Mobile Handicrafts Scheme has been started by the Lowestoft and North East Suffolk Spastics Society.

Instructors visit home-bound spastics in the area and start them off on various forms of work such as making calendars, printing or needlework. The Group has the use of a vehicle to maintain a regular supply of materials and collect finished goods.

The aim of the scheme is to provide spastics who are unable to find a place in open employment with an occupational interest and a chance to earn a little pocket money.

Pigeons home — in nest egg for spastics

About 200 V.I.P.s flocked to the St. Pancras Assembly rooms last month, all of them pigeon toed and all of them pigeon checked. Which was fair enough, because they were all pigeons—Very Important Pigeons.

The birds had arrived, not to feather their own nests, but to help raise a £3,750 nest egg for spastics. This was the sum they raised at Wally Pope's Fifth Annual Sale of Pedigree Racing Pigeons.

From all over the world they came. From France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Canada and even the Argentine. Many of the pigeons had pedigrees so long they could even look down their beaks at most of the people in Burke's Peerage.

Cock of the walk was an English bird which fetched £275. The bird was donated by Louis Massarella, from Kirby Muxloe, Leicester. Second highest bid was for a French bird donated by Pierre Dordin of Harnes, France, which fetched £250. This seems a high price to pay for a pigeon, until you learn that the bird's father, "The Scout", had attracted an offer of £2,000.

Among the pigeons auctioned was one bred by a spastic, Robert Strachen, of Wynton Farm, near Dundee, Scotland.

OPENED

The sale was opened by Major J. Lewis, Secretary of the British Confederation of Long Distance Racing Pigeons. Major Lewis told prospective bidders: "One of the greatest gifts a person can have is the ability to live a natural life. To be able to walk down the street, to tie up one's own shoe lace and perform the many insignificant tasks that most of us take for granted."

"Unfortunately there are many people, such as spastics, who cannot do these things. And that is one of the reasons why we are here."

Before embarking on his marathon auctioneering session, Wally Pope said the event was considered to be one of the most important of its kind in the world. He thanked the many people who had donated pigeons to the sale. Wally then went on to auction the birds from 11 a.m. till 11 p.m. with only an hour's break for lunch.

For Wally Pope the Pigeon Sale begins in the spring. That

is when he starts writing hundreds of letters inviting fanciers to donate birds. From then on he puts in a lot of overtime listing pigeons, checking their pedigrees, supervising their transport, putting them up when they arrive, and setting them up in cages at the assembly rooms before the auction.

LAST BIRD

Only after the last bird has been sold, and the birds and their cages have been cleared away, can he take a deep breath before beginning work on next year's sale.

A glimpse of this year's sale was given to millions of television viewers throughout England. An ITN camera crew filmed part of the auction, which was screened on two news bulletins.

A raffle held during the auction raised about £600 towards the £3,750 total. First prize in the raffle was a £100 Premium Bond.

PRINCESS



Heather Robinson, aged 16, of Heysham, Lancs., was the winner of a "Holiday Princess" competition held at a Prestatyn Holiday Camp. Heather, a student, is confined to a wheelchair. She belongs to a Spastic Youth Club and four years ago was a winner of the Girl Guide Star of Merit.

IT'S A RECORD

The Shropshire Spastics Society are to become one of the proud entries in the next edition of the Guinness Book of Records. The sponsored swim held on their behalf during Spastics Week has been accepted as a new world record event.

During the course of an evening at Quarry Baths, Shrewsbury 210 miles—over 10,000 lengths—were completed by 99 swimmers—doubling the previous record distance. Best individual effort was by 17 year old Tim Paris who com-

pleted 288 lengths.

The swim was arranged by the Shrewsbury Swimming Club and representatives from various organisations took part, including an underwater team from the local sub-aqua club. The evening was launched by an exhibition from Olympic medallist Martyn Woodruffe.

Over £1,500 was raised for the Group by the swimmers, and as a result a new holiday bungalow has been equipped and opened.

Any challengers for that record?



Sheila Bernette, popular television star, pushes over a pile of pennies at the Cricketers Inn, Burgess Hill, Sussex. Helping her are Barry Greenway and his wife Marie Gordon of the New Faces group, who appeared with Sheila on television's "The Saturday Crowd." Landlord Mr. Steve King is in the background.

(Photo by courtesy of Brighton Evening Argus)